The Journal of Historical Review

Carlo Mattogno

The Myth of the Extermination of the Jews—Part II

Enrique Aynat Eknes

Crematoriums II and III of Birkenau: A Critical Study

—Reviews—

The Second Oldest Profession:
Spies and Spying in the Twentieth Century
German Big Business and the Rise of Hitler
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—Historical News and Comment—

The End of a Myth
Interview with Michel De Bouard on the "Thesis of Nantes"

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From the Editor

Recently the *New York Times* made it official: Revisionism has come of age in America. American historian Deborah Lipstadt has been hired by the Hebrew University in Jerusalem to study the Revisionists, of whom she fears "some of their positions could enter the mainstream."

We at the Institute for Historical Review are proud of the role of *The Journal of Historical Review* in fostering and promoting Historical Revisionism. Since its founding in 1980, *The Journal* has been the world's leading voice for bringing history into accord with the facts. And that voice is increasingly a worldwide voice.

This issue of *The Journal of Historical Review* features two substantial articles by European Revisionists, each of them another sturdy nail in the coffin of the extermination legend.

Italian Carlo Mattogno's conclusion of his two-part "Myth of the Extermination of the Jews" is remarkable for its comprehensive bibliographical survey of Revisionist writings on the "Holocaust," a survey which demonstrates beyond cavil the worldwide scope and power of Revisionist research. Mattogno has also accomplished a scintillating debunking of the "eyewitness" testimony to the gas-chamber murders, laying bare the contradictions and absurdities which abound in the stories of the supposed perpetrators and the self-proclaimed survivors alike.

Mattogno's broad overview of Holocaust Revisionism is complemented by Spaniard Enrique Aynat Eknes's careful study of the evidence for gassings and industrial-scale cremations in the two biggest crematoriums at Auschwitz. This article, meticulously documented, copiously illustrated, is certain to become a classic of Revisionist literature, and it powerfully bolsters the findings of American gas chamber expert Fred Leuchter (the introduction to whose groundbreaking report, by Robert Faurisson, appears in this issue's "Historical News and Comment" section).

We're pleased to welcome Professor Jim Martin, dean of Revisionist historians, back to these pages, and readers new to *The Journal* will have a chance to sample typically acerbic Martin wit in his review of Phillip Knightley's new book on twentieth-century espionage. Historian John Ries reviews important books on the financing of the National Socialists and on Germany's surprisingly pro-Zionist policies during the 1930's.

In addition to Robert Faurisson's introduction to the pathbreaking Leuchter report, mentioned above, we've translated an important interview, given by French historian and Mauthausen deportee Professor Michel de Boüard to the French newspaper *Ouest-France*. De Boüard, no Holocaust Revisionist but a man of courage and honor, defends the famous thesis of Henri Roques, *The "Confessions" of Kurt Gerstein*, which was revoked on the order of the French government (but will soon be published in English by the Institute for Historical Review).

We hope this issue of *The Journal* will give Professor Lipstadt some food for thought– we know it won't make her work any easier.

–Theodore J. O'Keefe

The Myth of the Extermination of the Jews: Part II

CARLO MATTOGNO

1. Birth and Development of Revisionism

National Socialist policy in the matter of Jewish emigration, pursued officially until the beginning of February 1942, thus posed a question that really was "throbbing," to use again the adjective employed by Poliakov.

If it was true that *exterminating* the Jews "conformed to the fundamental objective of National Socialism"[1]; if it was true that it was not "the coming to a head of an unforeseeable explosion of violence, or of a betrayal of trust by subordinates, but the fruit of an ideology of death and of an organic design"[2]; if it was true that "according to Hitler, among the ends that had to be achieved thanks to the war, the general extermination of the Jews had a very important place, to the realization of which the German government would devote a large part of its forces,"[3] for what mysterious reason did Adolf Hitler deprive himself of at least a million victims by allowing them to emigrate?

It was thus inevitable that so atrocious an accusation, based essentially on "third and fourth hand accounts," on "the game of psychological deductions," knowing that "all these could offer was fragile and speculative," and on "fragmentary and sometimes hypothetical answers," be placed in doubt.

In the immediate post-war period and in the following years severe criticisms were formulated in regard to the trials of those who were called "Nazi war criminals"—in particular, the Nuremberg trial[4]—and concerning the behavior of the Allies during the war.[5]

The first to raise doubt about the reality of the "extermination" of the Jews was the Frenchman, Paul Rassinier,[6] who is justly considered to be the precursor of present-day Revisionism. His work was taken up and carried on by other researchers who have produced a rich Revisionist literature, the most important works of which are:

—*Auschwitz ou le grand alibi* (Auschwitz or the Great Alibi), *Le Prolétaire*, bi-monthly of the Communist Party International, 1960.

—*Geschichte der Verfehmung Deutschlands* (History of the Outlawing of Germany) by Franz Scheidl, Vienna, published by the author, 1967.

—*The Myth of the Six Million*, Anonymous, The Noontide Press, Costa Mesa, California 1969.

—*The Big Lie: Six Million Murdered Jews*, by The Historical Research Unity, Fyshwick ACT Unity Printers and Publishers, 1970.

—*Die Auschwitz-Lüge* (The Auschwitz Lie), by Thies Christophersen, Kritik-Verlag, Mohrkirch, West Germany, 1973.

—*The Six Million Swindle*, by Austin J. App, Boniface Press, Takoma Park, Maryland, 1973.

—*Hexen Ein-Mal-Eins einer Lüge* (Witches' Multiplication Table of a Lie), by Emil Aretz, Verlag Hohe Warte - Franz von Bebenburg, 1973.

—*Did Six Million Really Die?*, by Richard Harwood, Historical Review Press, Brighton, Sussex, England, 1974.

—*The Hoax of the Twentieth Century*, by Arthur R. Butz, The Noontide Press, Costa Mesa, California, 1977.

—Robert Faurisson wrote his article "The Problem of the Gas Chambers" (*Défense de l'Occident*, No. 158, June 1978) and in *Le Monde* (29 December 1978) published "The Problem of the Gas Chambers, or the Rumor of Auschwitz," followed by a text, making use of the right to reply, 16 January 1979.

—The excellent study *Der Auschwitz Mythos: Legende oder Wirklichkeit?* (The Auschwitz Myth: Legend or Reality?), by Wilhelm Stäglich, Institute for Historical Review, Costa Mesa, California, 1986.

—*The Six Million Reconsidered*, by the Committee for Truth in History, The Noontide Press, Costa Mesa, California, 1977.

—*El Mito de los 6 Millones: El Fraude de los Judios Asesinados por Hitler* (The Myth of the Six Million: The Fraud of the Jews Murdered by Hitler), by J. Bochaca, Ediciones BAU, S.P. Barcelona, 1974.

—*Anne Frank's Diary: A Hoax* by Ditlieb Felderer, Institute for Historical Review, Costa Mesa, California, 1979.

—*Holocaust, hoe lang nog?* (Holocaust, How Much Longer?) Haro Boekdienst, Antwerpen.[7]

In 1979, at Northrup University in Los Angeles, the first Revisionist Conference was held, organized by the Institute for Historical Review, which, since spring 1980, has published the important quarterly *The Journal of Historical Review* with the collaboration of the most significant Revisionist historians around the World. This has contributed further to making Historical Revisionism an irrefutable reality, and an unstoppable intellectual movement. Indeed the Revisionist theses are attracting ever more defenders.

Since 1980, and up to the present, several works have been published, notably in France, in the wake of the Faurisson affair. Besides numerous articles appearing in *The Journal of Historical Review*, we draw attention to:

—*Auschwitz Exit* (Vol. I), by Ditlieb Felderer, Täby, Sweden, 1980.

—*1981 Revisionist Bibliography: A Select Bibliography of Revisionist Books Dealing with the Two World Wars and Their Aftermaths*, compiled and annotated by Keith Stimely, Institute for Historical Review, Costa Mesa, California, 1980.

—*Vor dem Tribunal der Sieger: Gesetzlose Justiz in Nürnberg* (Before the Victors' Tribunal: Lawless Justice in Nuremberg), by Hildegarde Fritzsche, K.W. Schütz Kg, Preussisch-Oldendorf, West Germany, 1981.

—*Auschwitz im IG-Farben Prozess: Holocaustdokumente?* (Auschwitz in the IG Farben Trial: Holocaust Documents?), edited by Udo Walendy, Verlag für Volkstum und Zeitgeschichtsforschung, Vlotho/Weser, West Germany, 1981.

—*Holocaust nun unterirdisch?* (Holocaust Now Subterranean?), Historische Tatsachen (Historical Facts), No. 9, Vlotho/Weser, 1981.

—*Kenntnismängel der Alliierten* (The Allies' Defective Knowledge), Historische Tatsachen No. 11, 1982.

—*Adolf Eichmann und die "Skelettsammlung des Ahnenerbe e.V."* (Adolf Eichmann and the "Skeleton Collection of the Ancestral Heritage Association") Historische Tatsachen No. 16, 1983.

—*Einsatzgruppen im Verbande des Heeres* (Operations Groups in the Structure of the Army), Historische Tatsachen No. 16 and No. 17, 1983.

—*Alliierte Kriegspropaganda 1914-1919* (Allied War Propaganda, 1914-1919), Hist. Tatsachen No. 22, 1985.

—*Ich suchte—und fand die Wahrheit* (I Sought—and Found the Truth), Robert Faurisson, *Kritik*, No. 58, Kritik-Verlag, Mohrkirch, 1982.

—*The 'Holocaust': 120 Questions and Answers*, Charles E. Weber, Institute for Historical Review, Costa Mesa, 1983.

—*Nazi Gassing a Myth?* IHR Special Report, Institute for Historical Review, Costa Mesa, 1983.

—*The Dissolution of Eastern European Jewry*, Walter N. Sanning, Institute for Historical Review, Costa Mesa, 1983.

—*Le grands truquages de l'histoire* (The Great Frauds of History), by Hervé Le Goff, Editions Jacques Grancher, Paris, 1983. Includes a study of the Anne Frank diary imposture.[8]

—*The Man Who Invented "Genocide"*, James J. Martin, Institute for Historical Review, Costa Mesa, 1984.

—*"Massentötungen" oder Desinformation?* ("Mass Killings" or Disinformation?), by Ingrid Weckert, Historische Tatsachen No. 24, 1985.

—*Macht + Prozesse = "Wahrheit"?* (Power + Trial = "Truth"?), Historische Tatsachen No. 25, 1985.

—*Amtliche Lügen straffrei, Bürgerzweifel kriminell* (Official Lies Unpenalized, Citizens' Doubts Criminal), Historische Tatsachen No. 29, 1985.

—*Die Befreiung von Auschwitz 1945* (The Liberation of Auschwitz 1945), Historische Tatsachen No. 31, 1987.

—*Die Farce des sowjetischen Kommissionsberichtes vom 7. Mai 1945* (The Farce of the Soviet Commission Report of 7 May 1945), Historische Tatsachen No. 33, 1988.

All the Historische Tatsachen cited, except for No. 24, are by Udo Walendy.

—*Dachau . . . Buchenwald . . . Belsen, etc.* Z.L. Smith, Antwerp, Vrij Historisch Onderzoek (Free Historical Research), 1984.

—*Het Dagboek van Anne Frank: een Vervalsing* (The Diary of Anne Frank: A Falsification), Robert Faurisson, Antwerp: Vrij Historisch Onderzoek, 1985.

—*Worldwide Growth and Impact of "Holocaust" Revisionism.* IHR Special Report, Institute for Historical Review, Costa Mesa, 1985.

—*L'onestà polemica del signor Vidal-Naquet. A proposito dell'edizione italiana di un suo libro* (The Honest Polemic of Mr. Vidal-Naquet, on the Italian edition of one of his books), Cesare Saletta, Sala Bolognese, 1985.

—*Droit et Histoire* (Law and History), Pierre Guillaume, La Vieille Taupe, Paris, 1986.

We add the most siginificant works on the Faurisson affair:

—*Mémoire en défense contre ceux qui m'accusent de falsifier l'histoire. La question des chambres à gaz* (Defense

Memorandum against Those Who Accuse Me of Falsifying History. The Question of the Gas Chambers), Robert Faurisson, La Vieille Taupe, 1980. A work of exceptional value.

—*Vérité historique ou vérité politique ? Le dossier de l'affaire Faurisson. La question des chambres à gaz* (Historical Truth, or Political Truth? The Faurisson Affair File: The Question of the Gas Chambers) Serge Thion, La Vieille Taupe, 1980.

—*L'Affaire Faurisson* (The Faurisson Affair), *Le Lutteur de classe*, November 1961.

—*Intolérable Intolérance* (Intolerable Intolerance). Jean-Gabriel Cohn-Bendit, Eric Delcroix, Claude Karnoouh, Vincent Monteil and Jean-Louis Tristani. Editions de la Différence, 1981.

—*L'Incroyable Affaire Faurisson* (The Incredible Faurisson Affair), Les petits suppléments au Guide des droits des victimes, No. 1, La Vieille Taupe, 1982.

—*Réponse à Pierre Vidal-Naquet* (Reply to Pierre Vidal-Naquet), Robert Faurisson. Second enlarged edition, 1962, published by the author. La Vieille Taupe, 1982.

—*L'Affaire Faurisson* (The Faurisson Affair), by Marie-Paule Mémy. Memorandum of D.U.T., University of Bordeaux III, Option Journalism 1982-1983.

—*Epilogue judiciaire de l'Affaire Faurisson* (Judiciary Epilogue to the Faurisson Affair), La Vieille Taupe, 1983.

—*Il caso Faurisson* (The Faurisson Case), Andrea Chersi, Castenedolo, 1983. Published by the author.[9]

In January 1985 the first number of the Spanish Revisionist review, *Revision* was published in Alicante.

Since the spring of 1987 the important review *Annales d'histoire révisionniste* has been published in France.

We call attention also to the Revisionist journal *Taboe. Revisionistisch tijdschrift voor kritisch en wetenschappelijk onderzoek* (Tabu, Revisionist periodical for critical and scientific research), Antwerp, Belgium.

Lastly, may we be permitted to mention our own studies:

Published by Sentinella d'Italia, Monfalcone:

—*Il rapporto Gerstein. Anatomia di un falso* (The Gerstein Report: Anatomy of a Fraud), 1982.

—*La Risiera di San Sabba: un falso grossolano* (The ricery of San Sabba: A Gross Hoax), 1985.

Published by La Sfinge, Parma:

—*Wellers e i "gasati" di Auschwitz* (Wellers and the "Gassed" of Auschwitz), 1987.

—*Auschwitz: due false testimonianze* (Auschwitz: Two False Testimonies), 1986.

—*Auschwitz: un caso di plagio* (Auschwitz: A Case of Plagarism), 1986.

Further:

—*Auschwitz: le confessioni di Rudolf Höss* (Auschwitz: The False Confessions of Rudolf Höss), 1987.

—*Come si falsifica la storia: Georges Wellers e le "camere a gas" di Belzec* (How History is Falsified: Georges Wellers and the "Gas Chambers" at Belzec). To be published.

—*Medico ad Auschwitz. Anatomia di un falso. La falsa testimonianza di Miklos Nyiszli* (Doctor in Auschwitz: Anatomy of a Fraud: The False Testimony of Miklos Nyiszli). To be published.[10]

This vast literature is of unequal value and ranges from superficial and often inexact declarations—rightly criticized by the Exterminationist historians, as Revisionists call those who maintain the reality of the "Extermination" of the Jews—to methodical and profound research.

This literature has aroused reactions of diverse types.[11]

On the literary plane, a number of highly passionate writings seek to discredit the Revisionists, be it by personal defamation, be it by distorting their theses in order to hold them up to ridicule, be it by trying to make Revisionism appear as an integral part of "an international neo-Nazi movement," that is to say, of a resurgence of Nazi anti-Semitism, as is implied expressly by Robert Kempner.[12]

This attempt appears clearly in the titles that occur most frequently in this literature:

—"Criticism of the Publicity of the Anti-Semitic Extreme Right";[13]

—"A Look at Neo-Nazi Literature";[14]

—"The Final Solution and Neo-Nazi Mythomania";[15]

—"The Final Solution of the Jewish Question in the Recent Neo-Nazi literature."[16]

Among the most virulent articles, we point out:

—"La politica dello struzzo" (Ostrich Politics), Augusto Segre, *La Rassegna Mensile di Israel*, January-March 1979.

—"La distruzione della ragione" (The Destruction of Reason), Giuseppe Laras, *La Rassegna Mensile di Israel*, August-September 1973.

—"Le camere a gas sono esistite!" (The Gas Chambers Existed!), reply by Enzo Collotti to Robert Faurisson. *Storia Illustrata* No.

262, September 1979. (See on this subject: Faurisson Replies to Collotti, *Storia Illustrata* No. 263, October 1979).

Stefano Levi della Torre dedicated a paragraph to Revisionism in the article "New Forms of Jew-phobia" that is included in the section "Anti-Semitism Today."[17]

In reality, the accusation is baseless, and is clearly intended as propaganda. The credentials of the man who is considered to be the founder of Revisionism, Paul Rassinier, leave no doubt in that regard: socialist, resistant, arrested by the Gestapo in October 1943, tortured for eleven days, deported to Buchenwald, then to Dora, in which camps he spent 19 months, 95 per cent invalided as a result of his deportation, bearer of the Vermilion Medal of French Gratitude (Médaille Vermeil de la Reçonnaissance Française) and of the "Rosette de la Résistance." In France, the legacy of Rassinier has been assumed by elements of the Left, beginning with the group that manages the publishing house La Vieille Taupe (The Old Mole).[18]

Other Exterminationist writers, while displaying all the emotion invariably engendered by an expression of doubt in regard to the "extermination" of the Jews, try to place themselves on the plane of objective criticism. Among the most significant, we call attention to:

—"Lies About the Holocaust," Lucy Dawidowicz, *Commentary*, December, 1980.

—"Les redresseurs de morts." [Translator's note: Here the Exterminationist indulges herself archly in a *"Jeu de mots"* or, more simply, a pun on "redresseurs de torts"—"righters of wrongs"] Chambres à gaz: la bonne nouvelle. Comme on revise l'histoire. (The Redressers of the Dead. Gas Chambers: The Good News: How History is Revised) by Nadine Fresco. *Les Temps Modernes*, No. 707, June 1980. The author undertakes to show the historiographic methods of Revisionism.

—*Les chambres à gaz ont existé. Des documents, des témoignages, des chiffres* (The Gas Chambers Did Exist. Documents, Testimonies, Numbers), Georges Wellers. Editions Gallimard, 1981. A work directed against Robert Faurisson.

—*La Solution Finale et la mythomanie neo-nazie* (The Final Solution and Neo-Nazi Mythomania), Georges Wellers. Published by Beate and Serge Klarsfeld, 1979. A work directed against Paul Rassinier.

—*Six Million Did Die*, Arthur Suzman and Denis Diamond. Johannesburg, 1978. A work directed against Richard Harwood and Arthur Butz.

—"Un Eichmann de papier: Anatomie d'un mensonge" (A Paper Eichmann: Anatomy of a Lie), Pierre Vidal-Naquet in *Les Juifs, la mémoire et le présent* (Jews, Memory, and the

Present), Paris, 1981. Study directed against Robert Faurisson.

—"Tesi sul revisionismo" (Theses on Revisionism), Pierre Vidal-Naquet. *Rivista di Storia Contemporanea*, Loescher, Turin, January, 1983. A general article against Revisionism.

—*Nationalsozialistische Massentötungen durch Giftgas* (National Socialist Mass Killings by Poison Gas), by Eugen Kogon, Hermann Langbein, Adalbert Rückerl and others. Frankfurt-am-Main, 1983. A collective work of 24 historians aimed at refuting, indirectly, the whole of Revisionist historiography.

—"A propos d'une thèse de doctorat 'explosive' sur le rapport Gerstein" (An "Explosive" Doctoral Thesis on the Gerstein Report), Georges Wellers. *Le Monde Juif*, No. 121, January-March 1986. An article directed against Henri Roques.[19]

Some attempts to affirm the Exterminationist "truth" have had the opposite effect. Particularly interesting in this respect are:

—*The Holocaust Revisited: A Retrospective Analysis of the Auschwitz-Birkenau Extermination Complex*, Dino A. Brugioni and Robert G. Poirier. Central Intelligence Agency, Washington D.C., U.S. Department of Commerce, National Technical Information Service, February 1979. A work in which aerial photographs of Auschwitz-Birkenau taken by the U.S. Air Force in 1944, are published, these demolish the myth of the immense exterminations that were supposed to have been perpetrated in these camps in 1944.

—"Les *Krematorien* IV et V de Birkenau et leurs chambres à gaz" (Crematories IV and V of Birkenau and Their Gas Chambers), Jean-Claude Pressac, *Le Monde Juif*, No. 107, July-September 1982. See the account given by Robert Faurisson "Le mythe des *chambres à gaz* entre en agonie," (The Myth of the Gas Chambers Enters Its Death-Phase), reply to Pierre Vidal-Naquet, second enlarged edition, La Vieille Taupe, 1982.

—*The Auschwitz Album*. After an album discovered by Lili Meier, survivor of the concentration camp. Text by Peter Hellman. See the analysis by Robert Faurisson, "Les Tricheries de l'*Album d'Auschwitz*" (*The Trickeries of The Auschwitz Album*), typed text, unpublished, 1983.

But the reactions of the opponents of Revisionism are not restricted to the literary plane. The lawsuits brought against Revisionists—to the end of obtaining official condemnation by the courts of the adversary theses—attest to the inability of the official historians to refute the Revisionist arguments seriously and convincingly.

Certain affairs, such as those of Christophersen, of Faurisson, and

of Felderer have become unhappily celebrated.[20]

Of doleful renown, too, is the Bundesprüfstelle für jugendgefährdende Schriften, a national agency for the examination and censoring of texts held to "put youth in jeopardy" in the Federal Republic of Germany, a simple method for the exercise of legal control over Revisionist literature, whose works are put on this index regularly! (Index für jugendgefährdende Schriften).[21]

The case of Dr. Wilhelm Stäglich attests to the blind intolerance practiced against those who, relying on sober documentation, deny the "extermination of the Jews." In November 1982, the Council of Deans of the Georg-August University of Göttingen, where he had obtained his Doctorate in Law in 1951, proceeded to revoke his doctor's title for having written the excellent *Der Auschwitz Mythos* which, in the opinion of this not exactly objective Council, made Wilhelm Stäglich "unworthy of the title of Doctor."[22]

Recently, Henri Roques—the case is unique in French university history—has seen the confirmation of his doctoral thesis on the confessions of Kurt Gerstein,[23] which unleashed an entire polemic[24] but remains unchallenged by any serious refutation, annulled because of presumed administrative irregularities.[25]

2. Revisionist Criticism

It would be difficult to summarize the results of Revisionist criticism in a few pages. Besides, we are concerned here not so much with presenting the results of Revisionist research than Revisionism's reason for being, and its methodology, and that is why we devote this chapter to explaining the reasons why, in our opinion, it is necessary to doubt the reality of the "extermination" of the Jews.

At the time of the Nuremberg trial, the English public prosecutor, Sir Hartley Shawcross, in his speech for the prosecution of 26 July 1946, accused the Germans of having killed more than six million Jews "in the gas chambers and ovens of Auschwitz, Dachau, Treblinka, Buchenwald, Mauthausen, and Oranienburg."[1]

Each one of these "gas chambers," naturally, had its "eye-witnesses."

Abbé Georges Hénocque described that of Buchenwald as follows:

> I felt reassured and, opening the iron door, I found myself in the famous gas chamber.
>
> The room could have been about five meters square, with a height of three and a half meters. Seventeen sprinkler heads fastened and placed at regular intervals in the ceiling. Looking at them revealed nothing of their murderous function. They resembled harmless water dispensers. The deportees employed in the crematorium forewarned me: in a touch of irony, each victim, on entering this room, was given

a towel, and a minuscule bit of soap. These unfortunates believed they were going into the shower. Then the heavy iron door, bordered with a kind of rubber seal a half-centimeter thick, designed to prevent the entry of the least bit of air, was closed on them.

On the inside, the walls were smooth, without fissures, as though varnished. On the outside, one noticed, on the side of the door lintel, four buttons, placed one under the other; one red, one yellow, one green, one white.

Yet, one detail worried me: I could not understand how the gas could descend from the sprinkler outlets to the floor. The room in which I found myself was skirted by a corridor. I went into it and there I saw an enormous pipe that my two arms could not encompass completely, which was covered with rubber to a thickness of about one centimeter.

On the side, a handle that one turned from left to right released the gas. Under strong pressure, it descended to the floor, so that none of the victims could escape what the Germans called "the slow and sweet death."

Below the spot where the pipe formed an elbow to enter the asphyxiation chamber, there were the same buttons as on the outside door: red, green, yellow, and white, which served evidently to measure the descent of the gas. Everything was really put together and organized scientifically. The evil genius could not have done better. I went back into the gas chamber to try to find the crematory room.[2]

SS-Obersturmbannführer Kaindl, former commandant of the Oranienburg-Sachsenhausen camp, declared before a Soviet military tribunal:

Toward mid-March 1943, I installed a gas chamber as a means for mass extermination.

Public Prosecutor: On your own initiative?

Kaindl: Partly, yes, the existing installations no longer sufficed for the projected extermination. I held a conference in which the head doctor, Baumkötter, took part. He told me that the use of a poison gas, such as prussic acid, in rooms prepared for that purpose produced instant death.

That is why I considered the installation of gas chambers to be in order, and also because it was more humane, for mass killings.[3]

On the subject of the Dachau camp, Dr. Franz Blaha, in a sworn statement, affirmed:

There were numerous executions by gas, executions by firearms, and by injections, in the camp. The gas chamber was finished in 1944, and I called Dr. Rascher to examine the first victim. Of the eight or nine persons in the chamber, three were still alive; the others seemed to be dead. Their eyes were red and their faces bloated. Numerous detainees were subsquently killed in the same manner.[4]

On 19 August 1960, the German newspaper *Die Zeit*, under the headline "No Gassings in Dachau," published a letter by Dr. Martin

Broszat of the Institute for Contemporary History in Munich, in which he declared:

> Neither at Dachau, nor at Bergen-Belsen, nor at Buchenwald, were Jews or other detainees gassed. The gas chamber at Dachau was never completely finished, nor put "into service."

And further:

> The mass extermination of Jews by gassing began in 1941-1942, and took place exclusively in a few locations chosen for that purpose and provided with corresponding technical installations, above all in the occupied Polish territories (but nowhere in the Old Reich): at Auschwitz-Birkenau, at Sobibor on the Bug, at Treblinka, Chelmno, and Belzec.[5]

The reservations expressed in this letter were made explicit by Dr. Broszat in the "Preliminary Note" to the article by Ino Arndt and Wolfgang Scheffler in *Organisierter Massenmord an Juden in national-sozialistischen Vernichtungslagern* (Organized Mass Murder of Jews in National Socialist Extermination Camps):

> As we have pointed out already, the extermination of Jews in the institutional sense (accomplishment of the program of the "final solution") by means of gassing installations took place exclusively in the aforementioned camps in the occupied Polish territories.[6] In turn, in the concentration camps generally, there were indeed crematories (for the cremation of the detainees who died en masse or were killed during the war) but no gassing installations. However, where that was the case [the alleged presence of gas chambers] (Ravensbrück, Natzweiler, Mauthausen) they did not serve for the extermination of Jews in the sense of the "final solution" program. They served rather to ease the "work" of the execution commandos, which until now consisted in shooting the detainees, killing them by injections of phenol, and by other methods.[7]

Simon Wiesenthal confirms that "there were no extermination camps on German soil."[8]

In conclusion, neither at Buchenwald, nor at Oranienburg-Sachsenhausen, were there "gas chambers," while the alleged "gas chamber" at Dachau was never used,[9] as can be read also in the official publication on this camp:

> The "gas chamber" at Dachau was never put into service. Only the dead were put into the crematory for cremation, never any living being for "gassing."[10]

Or further:

> As we have said already, Dachau in the last year had its own gas chamber. But its "showers" were never used.[11]

Consequently, the "eyewitness testimonies" of those who pretended to have seen "gas chambers" in these camps, or to have taken part in the "gassings" there, are false.

That state of affairs should have moved any serious historian to undertake a critical review of *all* sources concerning the "extermination" of the Jews, but nothing of the kind happened.[12]

The question that Robert Faurisson asks is more than legitimate:

> Why are the "proofs," the "certainties," and "testimonies" gathered about the camps that, geographically, are close to us, suddenly without value, while the "proofs," "certainties," and the "testimonies" collected about the camps in Poland remain true?[13]

The question appears yet more legitimate when one considers what Gerald Reitlinger, who is an Exterminationist, writes about the evidence relating to the Polish "extermination camps":

> The greater part of the documentation on the death camps in Poland, for example, has been gathered by commissions inquiry of the Polish government, and by the Central Commission for Jewish History in Poland, by interrogating the physically able survivors who rarely were educated men.
>
> Moreover, the Eastern European Jew is by nature a rhetorician, he loves to express himself in florid comparisons. While one witness declared that the victims coming from the far west arrived at the death camp in sleeping cars, he probably wanted to say they came in passenger coaches, not in cattle cars. At times their imagination went beyond all credibility, as when the food smugglers of the ghetto were described as men of gigantic stature, with pockets that went from the neck to the ankles. Even readers who do not suffer from racial prejudices may find it a bit too thick to be able to digest the details of the monstrous assassinations and are led to cry "credat Judaeus Apella [Translator's note: "Let the Jew Apella believe it,"] and to relegate these recitals among the fables. Basically, the readers have the right to think that it is a case of "Oriental" witnesses, for whom numbers are nothing but rhetorical elements. Even their names, Sunschein, Zylberdukaten, (silver ducats), Rothbalsam (red balsam), Salamander—seem drawn from the imagination.[14]

In regard to the working method of the inquiry commissions and to the "testimonies" they gathered, Reitlinger states explicitly:

> One cannot but agree with R.T. Paget, K.C., member of the House of Commons, when he says that the researches undertaken by the Polish Government commission after the war are of mediocre probatory value. They consists, in effect, essentially of detached descriptions, by isolated persons, very rarely confirmed by other sources.[15]

The "proof" of the existence of the "gas chambers" in the so-called "extermination camps" in the East thus consist almost exclusively of extremely suspect "eyewitness testimonies" whose truthfulness is upheld *a priori* by the historians who maintain the reality of the "extermination" of the Jews, and the intentional lack of critical spirit is the essential characteristic of their historiographic method.

The analysis of such "proofs" and their mutual contradictions,

however, should lead Exterminationist historians to employ greater prudence.

The study of the genesis of the myth of the "extermination" of the Jews, at Treblinka, at Sobibor, and at Belzec, for example, is very revealing in this regard. One of the first "eyewitness testimonies" about Treblinka—the report sent 15 November 1942 by the clandestine organization of the Warsaw ghetto to the Polish government-in-exile in London—describes the "extermination" of the Jews in the camp as being carried out by water vapor (steam)!

In March 1942—this report reads—the Germans began the construction of the new camp of Treblinka B—on the edge of Treblinka A—which was finished at the end of April 1942. Toward the first half of September it comprised two "death houses." The "house of death No. 2" was of masonry, about 40 meters long and 15 meters wide. According to the story of one eyewitness, it contained ten rooms arranged along the two sides of a corridor that traversed the whole building. Pipes through which the steam passed were installed in these rooms. The "house of death No. 1" consisted of three rooms and one boiler. The report continues:

> Inside the furnace-room is a large boiler for the production of steam, and with the help of pipes that run through the death rooms, which are provided with an appropriate number of holes, the superheated steam is injected into the interior of the rooms.

The "victims" were put into the rooms mentioned above, and killed by the steam:

> In that manner the execution rooms are filled completely, then the doors are closed hermetically, and the long asphyxiation of the victims, by the steam coming out of the numerous holes in the pipes, begins. At the start, screams come from inside; they die down slowly; after 15 minutes the execution is completed.[16]

This story was taken up and raised to the rank of official truth by the Central Commission for Investigation of German crimes in Poland, which accused the former governor, Hans Frank, of having ordered the installation of an "extermination camp" at Treblinka for the massive elimination of the Jews "in steam-filled rooms."[17]

The myth of the "carbon monoxide gas chambers"[18] was later imposed and still constitutes the official truth in regard to the three "extermination camps" of the East.

What happened is simple: the "steam chambers" of the 15 November 1942 report were simply turned into "gas chambers"!

Thus the "eyewitness" Yankel Wiernik wrote that at Treblinka Jews were killed in two buildings, one large, with ten "gas chambers," the other small, with three "gas chambers,"[19] exactly as in the two "death houses" with ten and three "steam rooms" of the report cited above. The very arrangement of the rooms in the new buildings is drawn

entirely from the report of 15 November 1942: ten chambers arranged along the two sides of a corridor that traversed the whole building.[20]

That this "eyewitness" may be little worthy of credence can already be deduced from what he affirms: in each "gas chamber," measuring about "150 square feet" (i.e., about 14 square meters), about 1,000 to 1,200 persons were packed,[21] i.e., to a density of 71 to 85 persons per square meter!

We are, then, in the presence of one of those "eyewitnesses" for whom, as Gerald Reitlinger, put it, "numbers are merely rhetorical devices."

In 1946 the "gas chambers" of Sobibor were described thus:

> At first glance, one had the impression of entering a bathroom like any other: faucets for hot and cold water, wash basins . . . once everyone had entered, the doors close heavily. A black heavy substance issues in spirals from the holes made in the ceiling. One hears horrible shrieks that, however, do not last long, as they are transformed into smothered and suffocated breathing, then into final convulsions. It is related that mothers covered their babies' corpses with their bodies.
>
> The warden of the "bathroom" observed the whole train of events through a hole in the ceiling. Everything is over in a quarter of an hour. The floor opens, and the cadavers fall into carts waiting below which, when they are full, quickly depart. All is organized according to the most modern German technology. Outside, the bodies are laid out in a certain order and sprayed with gasoline, then set on fire.[22]

The "eyewitness" Zelda Metz furnished the following description:

> Thereupon they went into the barracks where they cut the women's hair, then into the bathroom, that is to say, the gas chamber. They were asphyxiated by chlorine. After 15 minutes they were all asphyxiated. Through a skylight it was verified that all were dead. Then the floor opened automatically. The cadavers fell into a railroad car that ran through the gas chamber and carried the cadavers to the ovens.[23]

But, from 1947 the Central Commission for the Investigation of German Crimes in Poland opted for murder "by combustion gas produced by motors: in the ceiling were openings connected by pipes with openings situated in adjoining buildings, which produced the CO gas with which the victims were suffocated,"[24] thus recognizing that the "testimonies" mentioned above were false. But that did not keep Zelda Metz from presenting herself as a prosecution witness at the trial of the former Sobibor guards Hubert Gomerski and Johan Klier[25] on 23 August 1950, in the course of which the public prosecutor declared specifically that "executions by motor-exhaust gas had taken place."[26]

The "eyewitness testimonies" about Belzec are even more instructive.

The first myth about the "extermination of the Jews" was born 8 April 1942, only three weeks after the opening of the camp: "The victims were assembled in a shack that had a metallic plate as its floor through which was passed an electric current that killed the Jews instantly."[27]

A similar story appeared in the *Kronika oswiecimska nieznanego autora* (Auschwitz Chronicle by an Unknown Author) that was supposed to have been dug up on the grounds of the old Auschwitz camp: "At Belzec the Jews were electrocuted."[28]

A report dated 10 July 1942 arrived in London in November of that year.[29] Published December 1st in the *Polish Fortnightly Review*, it describes the "extermination of the Jews" at Belzec in this way:

> After unloading, the men go to a barracks on the right, the women to a barracks situated on the left, where they strip, ostensibly in readiness for a bath. After they have undressed both groups go to a third barracks where there is an electrified plate, where the executions are carried out.[30]

A variant of the myth substitutes water for the metallic plate: "The Jews were killed by passing an electric current through the water in which they were immersed."[31]

The version of execution on a metallic plate reappeared in a report of November 1942:

> The victims are ordered to strip naked—to have a bath, ostensibly—and are then led to a barrack with a metal plate for flooring. The door is then locked, electric current passes through the victims and their death is almost instantaneous.[32]

In the report of the Polish government in exile in London, dated 10 December 1942, one reads, among other things:

> At first, the executions were carried out by means of shooting; subsequently, however, it is reported that the Germans applied new methods, such as poison gas, by means of which the Jewish population was exterminated in Chelm, or electrocution, for which a camp was organized in Belzec, where, in the course of March and April 1942, the Jews from the provinces of Lublin, Lwow and Kielce to the number of tens of thousands were exterminated.[33]

The story was repeated 19 December 1942 in a declaration by the "Inter-Allied Information Committee":

> Actual data concerning the fate of the deportees is not at hand, but the news is available—irrefutable news—that places of execution have been organized at Chelm and Belzec, where those who survive shootings are murdered en masse by means of electrocution and lethal gas.[34]

A report 1 November 1943 thus described the "Hell of Belzec":

> The Jews who were sent to Belzec were ordered to undress as though to take a bath. They were in fact led into a bathing facility that

> could hold several hundred people. But there they were killed en masse by electric current.[35]

In 1944 the myth was enriched: a new version bringing together the metallic plate and the water themes was elaborated. On 12 February 1944 the *New York Times* published the following recital of "a young Polish Jew" on the "extermination factory" at Beljec (the *New York Times*' spelling):

> The Jews were forced naked on to a metallic platform operated like a hydraulic elevator, which lowered them into a huge vat filled with water to the victims' necks, he declared. They were electrocuted by current through the water. The elevator then lifted the bodies to a crematorium above, the youth said. The source of this narrative is "individuals who escaped after actually being taken inside the factory."[36]

It came, therefore, from "eyewitnesses."

This new form of the myth was taken up in 1945 by Stefan Szende. The transports of Jews "entered by a tunnel into the underground spaces of the execution place." The "extermination technique" described by Szende is lifted, at the least, from science fiction.

> When trainloads of naked Jews arrived they were herded into a great hall capable of holding several thousand people. This hall has no windows and its flooring was of metal. Once the Jews were all inside, the floor of this hall sank like a lift into a great tank of water which lay below it until the Jews were up to their waists in water. Then a powerful electric current was sent into the metal flooring and within a few seconds all the Jews, thousands at a time, were dead.
>
> The metal flooring then rose again and the water drained away. The corpses of the slaughtered Jews were now heaped all over the floor. A different current was then switched on and the metal flooring rapidly became red hot, so that the corpses were incinerated as in a crematorium and only ash was left.
>
> The floor was then tipped up and the ashes slid out into prepared receptacles. The smoke of the process was carried away by great factory chimneys. That was the whole procedure.[37]

Another version of the myth mentions an "electric oven" (!) as the instrument of execution:

> Then they went into a third barrack that held an electric oven. It is in that barrack that the executions took place.[38]

In 1945 the first version of the myth was raised to the rank of official truth as far as the Belzec "extermination camp" was concerned. It was accepted in the report of the Polish government and read by the Soviet representative of the prosecution, L.N. Smirnov, at the 19 December 1945 hearing of the Nuremberg trial:

> In the same report, in the last chapter, on page 136 of the book of documents we find a declaration on the fact that the camp at Beldjitze[39] was constructed in 1940; however, the special electrical

> equipment for mass extermination of people was installed in 1942. Under the pretext of having them take a bath, the people were constrained to undress completely, and pushed into a building the floor of which was electrified; there they were killed.[40]

The myth of the "extermination" of Jews at Belzec by electricity was not the only one [regarding Belzec] to circulate in the course of the Second World War.

The "eyewitness" Jan Karski, who claims to have visited this camp in the uniform of the Estonian Guard, describes a somewhat singular "extermination" procedure:

> The Jews were loaded in boxcars the floors of which were covered with quicklime. When the loading was complete, the train departed for an uninhabited area 80 miles from Belzec, where it remained unopened until all the Jews were dead through the corrosive action of the lime and suffocation.[41]

Despite the detailed "eyewitness testimonies" to which we are referred, the myth of the carbon monoxide "gas chamber" has also been imposed definitively as official truth about Belzec. This myth, which has received the official sanction of the Commission for the Investigation of German Crimes in Poland[42] appeared suddenly in 1946, in the collection *Dokumenty i Materialy*.[43]

The new version is based on the "eyewitness testimony" of Rudolf Reder,[44] testimony that is in large part a plagiarism of the famous Gerstein Report.[45]

The "eyewitness testimony" of Kurt Gerstein, SS-Obersturmführer, on the "extermination camp" of Belzec is a typical instance of the absence of a critical spirit, and of the bad faith of official historians when they choose their "evidence."

In our study *The Gerstein Report: Anatomy of a Fraud*, we pointed out 103 absurdities, internal and external contradictions, historical falsifications, contradictions of the official historiography, hyperbolic exaggerations, and improbabilities, so that one cannot accord the least credibility to this "eyewitness testimony."

But that does not trouble in any way the official historians, who declared almost unanimously:

> The veracity of the Gerstein Report is in no doubt today.[46]
> The objective plausibility of all the essential details of the report is not in question.[47]

The official historians justify the false testimonies—that they themselves recognize as such—about Treblinka, Sobibor, and Belzec, in maintaining that during the war there was precise knowledge only of the existence of "extermination," but not of its concrete modalities and techniques. Pierre Vidal-Naquet writes on this subject:

> In the flood of information that came out of the occupied territories,

> there was the true, the less true, and the false. Of the general sense of what was happening, there was no doubt. In regard to the methods, there was often cause to hesitate between the one and the other.

He admits also that there were "fantasies and myths" but declares that these did not exist by themselves, but rather as "a shadow cast by reality, as an extension of reality."[48]

This argumentation is an excellent application of the methodological principle "the conclusion precedes the proofs," which Pierre Vidal-Naquet attributes to the Revisionist historians.[49]

Indeed we encounter again, *mutatis mutandis,* Robert Faurisson's question as to why the "eyewitness testimonies" to the "steam rooms" of Treblinka, to the "chlorine gas," and to the "cellars" of Sobibor, and to the "extermination" of the Jews by electricity or by death-trains at Belzec, suddenly are held to be false, while the "eyewitness testimonies" to the "gas chambers" are considered true?

It is important to emphasize that we are dealing here with "eyewitness testimonies" strictly equivalent in their credibility (or, more exactly, in their "incredibility") and completely contradictory as to their content, so that it is only when the existence of the "gas chambers" is postulated *a priori*—the conclusion precedes the proof—that one can speak of "fantasies" and "myths" that are "like a shadow cast by reality."

For the rest, to touch again on the measure of that "reality," it is enough to study the genesis of the myth of the "gas chambers" of Auschwitz.

That myth was imposed very late in the day, and that is surprising, since the largest of all the places of execution, *the death-factory of Auschwitz-Birkenau*, succeeded in keeping its secret until the summer of 1944.[50]

The reports of the Slovakian Jews (Alfred Wetzler and Rudolf Vrba) who escaped from Auschwitz 7 April[51] circulated in July 1944, reports that were published in the United States by the War Refugee Board in November of the same year, with two other reports,[52] one by two Jews who escaped from Auschwitz on 27 May (Czeslaw Mordowicz and Arnost Rosin), the other by a "Polish commander" who is not otherwise identified.

The most important of these so-called "official reports of Auschwitz," that of Alfred Wetzler, is visibly false: this one presents a plan and a description of Crematoria I and II (II and III, according to the offical numerical designation) that are in fact completely invented, as is seen by a simple comparison with the original plan. He states that in the "oven room" there were "nine ovens, each with four openings" placed around a high smokestack, which also is false in regard to the number as well as to the arrangement of the ovens; since in Crematoria II and III there were in fact five ovens each, having three openings, arranged lengthwise, one beside the other.[53]

The "gas chamber," according to Wetzler, was on the surface, since Wetzler tells us that the SS whose job it was to introduce the gas chamber onto the roof, which, too, is wholly false, as the mortuary chamber I, the so-called "gas chamber" was, in fact, underground.[54]

Besides, again according to Wetzler, a track led from "the 'gas chamber' to the oven room,"[55] which also is false, in view of the fact that the oven room was on the ground level.[56]

But none of this hinders the official historians in presenting this report as though it were true. The case of Georges Wellers is typical, since he uses, stupidly, Alfred Wetzler's *false* description in two works in which the correct original plan of Crematorium II in Birkenau is reproduced.[57] But that is not all. He tries painfully to minimize the very grave contradictions in the "eyewitness report" of Alfred Wetzler, writing:

> That some witnesses have committed errors of detail in their various descriptions is understandable. It is thus that Wetzler speaks of three openings in the ceiling of the gas chamber; in fact it had four.[58]

And that is all. It can thus be deduced that certain Exterminationist historians are not guilty of an excess of zeal in their reading of the texts.

Before receiving its official codification in the "confessions" of Rudolf Höss, the myth of the "gas chambers" at Auschwitz had known other vicissitudes as to the locale, the technique, and the period of the "extermination."

At the Nuremberg trial, in the course of the hearing on 8 August 1946, Sturmbannführer Georg Konrad Morgen described, in abundant detail, "the installations of the 'extermination camp' of Monowitz":

> Then the trucks left. They did not go to the Auschwitz concentration camp, but in another direction, to the Monowitz extermination camp, which was some kilometers distant. This extermination camp consisted of a series of crematoria not recognizable as such from the outside. They could be mistaken for large bath installations. Even the detainees knew it. These crematoria were surrounded by barbed wire and were tended on the inside by the Jewish working groups already mentioned.

And further:

> The Monowitz extermination camp was set apart from the concentration camp. It was situated in a vast industrial zone and was not recognizable as such. Chimneys smoked all across the horizon. The camp itself was guarded on the outside by a detachment of Balts, Estonians, Lithuanians, and by Ukrainians. The entire procedure was almost entirely in the hands of the detainees themselves, who were supervised only from time to time by a subordinate officer (*Unterführer*). The execution itself was carried out by another *Unterführer* who released the gas into that place.[59]

In reality, Monowitz, like the thirty-nine Auschwitz sub-camps, never had a "gas chamber."[60]

As concerns the technique of "extermination," a report dated 8 April 1943 listed the following methods of murder, in addition to "gas chambers" and execution by weapons.

> [...]
> (b) Electric chambers: these rooms had metallic wall linings; the victims were led inside, then the high-tension was switched on;
>
> (c) the system of the so-called pneumatic hammer; this was a system of special rooms in which the "hammer" came down from the ceiling, and the victims were killed by means of a special installation under high pneumatic pressure.[61]

As Martin Gilbert comments, these two methods were "pure fantasy."[62] On 2 February 1945 *Pravda* published an article on Auschwitz in which the following method of "extermination" was described:

> The most elaborate apparatus was an electric conveyor belt on which hundreds of persons could be electrocuted simultaneously, then moved on into furnaces."[62a]

In 1945, the version of "gassing" by sham shower baths was affirmed by the most ingenious perjurers, who echoed this story. At the Belsen trial, Dr. Ada Bimko described the sprinklers, the two "pipes," and the "huge metal containers containing gas" of the Birkenau "gas chambers" that this "eyewitness" professed to have visited personally.[63]

How these false witnesses imagined that the "gassings" had taken place can be seen clearly in the following recital by Sofia Schafranov to whom a *Sonderkommando* (special command) detainee is supposed to have recounted the following:

> A shower bath was simulated to the victims, and although they knew beforehand what kind of shower it was, they were given towels and a bit of soap; after that they were made to undress, and were pushed into low cement rooms, hermetically sealed. From faucets set in the ceiling there came a poison gas instead of water.[64]

That story was repeated at the 1949 Degesch trial: one witness had heard tell that "at Birkenau the gas was introduced by fake showers." But just as Dr. Heli, inventor of Zyklon B, as well as Dr. Ra,[65] a physician, declared that the "gassing" technique described by the witness was impossible, so the court rejected as false the story in question:

> The court does not doubt the inexactness of the hypothesis according to which the gas was drawn from the can of Zyklon by means of a small tube and introduced into the gas chambers so that it is no longer necessary to do the experiment asked for by one of the accused.[66]

But that did not prevent Vincenzo and Luigi Pappalettera from making the following commentary—evidently inspired by what had been maintained at Nuremberg[67]—on the photograph of the "gas chamber" at Mauthausen:

> In the showers the prisoners were drenched, not with water, but with murderous gas that spurted from little holes.[68]

Mixing these myths with those relating to Sobibor and to Belzec, Leo Laptos, who had worked as a pharmacist in Birkenau, recounted that:

> The gas chambers were equipped like bathrooms where people went under pretext of taking a shower, but instead of water, it was gas that came from the conduits, and the floor tipped so that the cadavers fell on to a conveyer belt that transported them into the crematory.[69]

No less fanciful was the recital of a female detainee at Auschwitz at the Degesch trial, according to which a gas, called "rotten gas" by the detainees, was gathered by a "rotten gas group" in the swampy areas and was used at Birkenau for "exterminating."[70]

Lastly, on the subject of the time-period of the "extermination," Dr. Reszö Kastner reported a message from Bratislava, according to which the "SS were on the point of repairing and refurbishing the gas chambers at the crematories of Auschwitz, which were out of use since autumn of 1943."[71] In a declaration made under oath in 1945, he stated precisely:

> A communiqué stated that at Auschwitz they were working feverishly on the restoration of the gas chambers and the crematories, which had not been in use for months,[72]

while the official historiography indicated no halt in the activity of the "gas chambers" and the crematory ovens[73] during the period in question, which is why in the 1961 edition of the Kastner report the aforementioned passage has been suppressed.[74]

Even more instructive is the study of the development of the myth of the "gas chambers" at Auschwitz, the present form of which derives from the "technical survey" of the "extermination camp" made by the Soviets in February-March 1945.

The Extraordinary Commission of Inquiry into German Crimes at Auschwitz "established" that more than four million persons were murdered in this camp,[75] a number that "makes one laugh," according to Reitlinger.[76] The fashion in which the Soviet Commission arrived at that figure makes one laugh even more! It declares:

> In Crematorium No. I, which existed for 24 months, one could burn 9,000 cadavers per month, which give a total of 216,000 for the whole duration of its existence. The numbers corresponding to the other crematoria are:

—Crematorium No. II, 19 months, 90,000 cadavers per month, total: 1,710,000

—Crematorium No. III, 18 months, 90,000 cadavers per month, total: 1,620,000

—Crematorium No. IV, 17 months, 45,000 cadavers per month, total: 765,000

—Crematorium No. V, 18 months, 45,000 cadavers per month, total: 810,000

The total capacity of the five crematoria was 279,000 cadavers per month, for a total of 5,121,000 cadavers for the whole duration of their existence. Given, on the one hand, that the Germans burned a great number of cadavers on wood pyres, and, on the other, that the crematoria did not always work at full capacity, the Soviet "technical commission" "established" at just four million the number of the "murdered"![77]

This calculation is false, if only for the reason that the maximum capacity of 270,00 cremations per month for the four Birkenau crematoria, or 9,000 per day, is about nine times greater than the actual capacity![78] The Soviet "technical commission," moreover, "established" that in the "gas chambers" of Auschwitz the gas Zyklon A had been employed, although this had not been used since the 1920s.[79]

The case of Katyn shows clearly the value that can be given the conclusions of the various Soviet "Commissions of Inquiry": the Soviet commission that investigated the Katyn massacre—committed by the Russians, as everyone knows—"established" on the basis of more than a hundred witnesses," "medico-legal surveys," and "documents and elements of proof," that those responsible for the butchery were the Germans.[80]

The Commission for Investigation of German Crimes in Poland "established" at first, as we have shown, that the Jews in Treblinka were killed in "steam chambers," and in Belzec by "electricity"; then it "established" that they were poisoned by carbon monoxide gas in "gas chambers"—which is amply sufficient to demonstrate the reliability of that commission.

In regard to the Auschwitz camp, it "established" the incineration capacity of the four Birkenau crematoria as 12,000 cadavers in 24 hours.[81] That is impossible.

Jan Sehn, examining magistrate and member of the General Commission of Inquiry into the Hitlerian Crimes in Poland, reduces that to 8,000.[82] That figure has been taken up by a 1979 publication of the Auschwitz Museum,[83] even though a 1961 publication of the same museum alludes to a German document that would make 4,416 cadavers appear to be a maximum capacity.[84]

Topping off the speculation about the numbers, Jan Sehn does not fear to assert:

> The very detailed documents gathered by the Extraordinary Soviet State Commission, as well as by the General Commission of Inquiry into Hitlerian Crimes in Poland, prove that the "output" of the Birkenau gas chambers was close to 60,000 persons in 24 hours.[85]

Eugen Kogon more modestly contents himself with a maximum daily production of 34,000.[86]

Beginning in 1945, there is a proliferation of "eyewitnesses" to the "gas chambers" of Auschwitz; what Georges Wellers calls "an abundance of proofs."[87]

Let us examine briefly the value of these "proofs." In regard to the activity of the crematoria at Birkenau—five, according to Ada Bimko,[88] six, according to Robert Lévy,[89] eight, according to Marie-Claude Vaillant-Couturier[90]—here is what appears in the notes Rudolf Höss is supposed to have set down in Cracow:

> After a very short time, Crematorium III (IV) was out of commission and it never was used again.[91]

Pery Broad stated exactly the contrary:

> The four crematoria worked at full steam. But soon, after continuous overloading, the ovens broke down, and only Crematorium III (IV) continued to smoke.[92]

Dov Paisikovic, who affirmed he was a member of the *Sonderkommando* from "May 1944 until the evacuation in January 1945" contradicts them both:

> The crematories were so solidly constructed that throughout this whole time I had no knowledge of any failure either of the ovens or of the crematories as a whole.[93]

These "eyewitnesses," in turn, are contradicted by the Polish Commission for the Investigation of German Crimes in Poland, which declared that in August 1944:

> The crematoria were closed, and thenceforward the corpses were burnt only in pits.[94]

Contradicting all these testimonies, the *Kalendarium der Ereignisse im Konzentrationslager Auschwitz-Birkenau* (Chronicle of Events in the Auschwitz-Birkenau Concentration Camp) does not show the least mishap in the functioning of the four crematories in Birkenau until 7 October 1944 when, because of the revolt of the *Sonderkommando,* Crematorium IV was burned.[95]

In regard to the Crematoria II and III at Birkenau, Alfred Wetzler declares they had 36 ovens which each "could take three normal corpses at once," which took "an hour and a half" to be "completely burned." That represented "a daily capacity of about 2,000 bodies" for each crematorium.[96]

For Dov Paisikovic the ovens were 15 in number and the cadavers took about "four minutes [!] to be consumed," so that there was a

cremation capacity of 6,000 cadavers in 24 hours.[97]

Miklos Nyiszli affirms that the cadavers were put "by threes" into each of the 15 ovens and "cremated in twenty minutes" which meant "several thousand people could be cremated in a single day."[98]

Dr. Bendel maintains there were 16 ovens, "but with a cremation capacity of about two thousand cadavers in 24 hours."[99]

Rudolf Höss was initially made to confess that the crematories in question had 10 ovens that could incinerate 4,000 cadavers in 24 hours.[100]

The "gas chambers" of Crematoria II and III—which Alfred Wetzler places on the ground level, the others underground—were 10 meters long for Dr. Bendel,[101] and 200 meters long for Nyiszli.[102]

As to the number of Auschwitz victims proffered by the diverse "witnesses," Georges Wellers writes that they vary between 8 million and 1½ million, i.e., in the proportion of 5.3 to 1.[103]

As will already have been seen in this necessary summary examination, there is well and truly "an abundance of proofs," but it turns out that these proofs are false and contradictory.

There are also objective proofs that are no less embarrassing to the official historiography.

The "Auschwitz Protocols" (see above) reached the War Refugee Board in June 1944.[104]

Since 4 April, American planes had overflown and photographed Auschwitz. In the course of the mission of 26 June, the IG-Farben industrial complex, Auschwitz, and Birkenau were photographed. On the 25 August 1944 mission, photographs were taken that clearly showed the Auschwitz camp and the Birkenau Crematoria II and III.

Thus, when on 13 September 1944 the Americans staged an air raid against the IG-Farben complex, they knew the Auschwitz-Birkenau camp well.

On that occasion, two bombs fell on Birkenau, accidentally; one of them hit the railway spur that led to the crematoria.[105]

What better occasion to destroy the sadly notorious "death factory" of Birkenau?

Yet nothing of the kind was done. Why, then was Auschwitz not bombed? The only answer to that "disquieting question"[106] can be the following:

Analyses of the aerial photographs of Auschwitz-Birkenau showed that this camp was not concealing any horrible "secret" and, consequently, the crematoria were judged not to be worth a single bomb.

It is not by chance that the abovementioned photographs[107] were not published until 1979 (!) with explanatory texts by the CIA *ad usum Delphini*. (Translator's note: "in Delphic style," i.e. obscurely formulated.)

Not only did these photographs show nothing of the existence of

"extermination" processes at Auschwitz, but they gave the lie categorically to an essential aspect, that of the cremation pits.

The origin of this myth, taken up untimately by diverse "eyewitnesses," with contradictions that are not without importance, can be attributed directly to the "Auschwitz Protocols."

One reads, in particular, in the report drawn up by Mordowicz and Rosin, that in May 1944, during the influx of Hungarian Jews, that the crematories could not manage the incineration of the cadavers of those who had been gassed, large pits, 30 meters long by 15 meters wide, were dug in the Birkenwald ("birch forest") adjoining Birkenau ("birch meadow") where the bodies were burned day and night.[108]

According to the "eyewitness" Miklos Nyiszli, from the two crematory pits, each 50 meters long and 6 meters wide, located in a birch forest 500-600 meters from Crematory V, there rose a "thick, twisting spiral of smoke" that was "visible from any point in the KZ" and "at every hour of the day and night." Nyiszli declared that "by day it covered the sky above Birkenau with a thick cloud."[109]

Even more emphatically, Pery Broad asserts that:

> In the environs of Birkenau there were about ten large incineration centers in which 200 to 1,000 persons at a time were burned on wood pyres. The light of these fires was still visible at a radius of at least 30 kilometers.[110]

The cremation pits, at first placed exclusively in the "birch forest" by the "eyewitnesses," thereafter moved mysteriously into the courtyard of Crematorium V.

The Commission for the Investigation of German Crimes in Poland "established" that between May and August 1944:

> Six huge pits were dug beside Crematorium V, and old pits were opened near the gas plant in the wood, and corpses burnt in them continuously. When operations were in full swing in August, 1944, the number of corpses burnt daily rose to 24,000.[111]

Pery Broad, according to whom, during that period, "only Crematorium III (IV) still smoked," locates the cremation pits exactly "in the rear courtyard of Crematorium IV."[112]

To sum up, between May and August 1944, Birkenau was claimed to be a fiery hell whose flames devoured up to 25,000 cadavers a day, and whose smoke covered the sky of Auschwitz-Birkenau in thick clouds.

Now, the aerial photographs of June 26th and of August 25th, 1944, reveal absolutely nothing of the presence of these enormous cremation pits; moreover, they show not the slightest trace of smoke, not from the phantom wood pyres, and not from the crematory smokestacks.

The most important source of the official "truth" on Auschwitz is

notoriously the "confessions" of Rudolf Höss, the veracity of which are accepted uncritically and dogmatically by the official historians.

In his "autobiography" Höss writes of his first interrogation by the English:

> At my first interrogation, evidence was obtained by beating me. I do not know what is in the record, although I signed it. Alcohol and the whip were too much for me.[113]

Martin Broszat remarks in a note:

> This refers to a police report of 8 typed pages that Höss signed on 14 March 1946 at 2:30 (Nuremberg Document No. 1210). As far as the content is concerned, it does not differ notably on any point from what Höss declared or wrote at Nuremberg or at Cracow.[114]

Rudolf Höss's first confession, which served as a model for all the others, therefore, was invented by the English interrogators. To be convinced of that, without a shadow of a doubt, a quick glance of the document in question will suffice.

Höss "confesses" to have been called to Berlin in June 1941 by Himmler, who let him know that the Führer had ordered "the final solution of the Jewish question in Europe," that is to say, "the total extermination of all the Jews in Europe," as he had been made to "acknowledge" in the declaration made under oath on 5 April 1946.[115] This is false not only because, as we have shown, the "final solution" meant at that time the deportation of the Jews to Madagascar, but also contradicts chronologically a cardinal element of the official historiography, as Gerald Reitlinger revealed with great embarrassment. Reitlinger eliminated the contradiction by dating the alleged summons of Höss to Berlin, and the supposed order by the Führer, a year later.[116]

In June 1941, Höss's "confession" continues, there were three *extermination camps* in the General Government: Wolzek, Belzec, and Tublinka (*sic*). But the first never existed, while the second, and the third (Treblinka) became operational—according to the official historiography—in March and in July 1942, respectively.[117] Höss confesses also to having visited the camp at Treblinka in the spring of 1942 and to have been present there at a gassing precedure, which is altogether impossible, since the construction of the camp began on June 1st, while the first gassing there was supposed to have been carried out on 23 July 1942.[118]

In the sworn statement of 5 April 1946 that supposed visit took place in 1941, when the Treblinka camp was not yet in existence.

But this is not all. The camp commandant reported to Höss that in the course of the preceding six months he had "gassed" 80,000 persons, which meant that the "gassings" had begun in the autumn of 1941, i.e., several months before the camp had been built!

According to PS-3868, the commandant of Treblinka "had

principally to occupy himself with the liquidation of all the Jews from the Warsaw ghetto"; but the deportation of these Jews to Treblinka did not begin until 22 July 1942.

The English investigators, who had a very approximate knowledge even in regard to Auschwitz, made Höss "confess" that the first two crematoria of Birkenau were finished in 1942, which is false,[119] each one having five double ovens, which is equally false,[120] which could incinerate 2,000 cadavers in 12 hours, just as false,[121] that the two other crematoria were finished six months later, which is false,[122] each with four ovens, which is yet again false.[123]

Höss was forced to say three million persons were murdered at Auschwitz, two and half million of them in the "gas chambers."[124] But in his "autobiography" in Cracow, Rudolf Höss "confesses":

> I consider in any case that the number of two and a half million is excessive. Even at Auschwitz the possibilities for extermination were limited.[125]

Subsequently, before the Polish Supreme Court, he reduced the number to 1,135,000.[126]

In his sworn declaration of 5 April 1946 and of 20 May 1946,[127] Höss repeats the "confession" of Document NO-1210 in stating that a half-million persons died of hunger and sickness, a number that surpassed greatly the number of the registered detainees.[128]

The English investigators finally shifted to May 1945 the chimerical order by Himmler, which is supposed to have ended the "gassings," [129] thereby contradicting the similarly contradictory notion of the official historiography.

Extradited to Poland, Rudolf Höss continued to make the same kind of "confessions."

The Poles (on the basis of the documents seized at Auschwitz) revised and corrected the 14 March 1946 "confession" drawn up by the English interrogators, developing it into the "autobiography" proper, and into the appendix captioned "Final solution (. . .)" that constitutes the official "truth" about Auschwitz.

It is only too easy to imagine by what means these "confessions" were extracted from Rudolf Höss: it is enough to recall the methods of the great Moscow trials that forced the accused to make the desired "confessions."

The climate of the cold war set in; the Poles permitted Höss to describe the treatment he had suffered under "bourgeous" justice:

> After several days, I was led to Minden-on-Weser, the "British Zone" interrogation center. There I suffered even more brutal treatment at the hands of the military prosecutor, an English major. The regime of the prison in which I was locked up corresponded to his attitude. After three weeks I was suddenly taken to the barber who shaved me and cut my hair. I was permitted also to wash myself; this was the first time since my arrest that my handcuffs were taken off.

From Minden Höss was taken to Nuremberg:

> The conditions of my stay were excellent in every respect. We had a large library at our disposal, and I could employ all my time in reading. But the interrogations really were very painful. I was not tortured physcially, but the moral pressure was very hard to endure. I can hold no grudge against my judges: they all were Jews. They were the kind of Jews who wanted to know everything that had torn me psychologically. They let no doubt remain about the fate that awaited us.[130]

It is easy to imagine of what the psychological pressures on Rudolf Höss consisted. Here is an example drawn from the vast repertory of the great Moscow trials:

> The hostages provide the essential ingredient of the moral tortures. Here is one, for instance, very simple, and which will remain invisible to the foreign journalists admitted to the courtroom: the accused is shown a film depicting refined tortures; it is murmured to him that such will be the fate of his wife, or of his granddaughter, if . . . [131]

Let us not believe that the "civilized" Occident has recoiled from similar methods. The American Investigation Commission, composed of Judges van Roden and Simpson, who were sent to Germany in 1948 to investigate the irregularities committed by the American Military Tribunal at Dachau—which had tried 1,500 Germans and condemned 420 to death[132]—ascertained that the accused had been subjected to physical and psychological tortures of all kinds, to force them to make the desired "confessions."

Thus, in 137 of the 139 cases examined, the accused, in the course of their interrogation, had been kicked in the testicles, and left with incurable injuries.[133]

But there is no reason to be surprised by this: it is part of the logic of the trials of those who are called "Nazi War Criminals." The guiding principle was set forth frankly by the U.S. Attorney General, Robert H. Jackson, at the Nuremberg trial session of 26 July 1946:

> The Allies are technically still in a state of war with Germany even though the political and the military institutions of the enemy have collapsed. As a military tribunal this court represents a continuation of the war effort of the allied nations.[134]

In conclusion, to doubt the historic reality of the "extermination" of the Jews not only is legitimate, it is a duty, because it is a duty to seek historical truth

> by submitting testimonies, documents, and data systematically to examination by critical methods that no one would dream of challenging if they were applied to no matter what other historical problem, because it is on these methods, and on nothing else, that historical research bases its scientific character.[135]

. . . not by accepting any document or "eye witness testimony"

whatsoever uncritically and with preconceived notions, as the official historians do regularly.

Notes

Part 1

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2. Vittorio E. Giuntella, *Il nazismo e i Lager*, Roma, 1980, p. 46.
3. Elia S. Artom, *Storia d'Israele*, Rome, 1965, vol. III, p. 227.
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21. Udo Walendy, *Der moderne Index*, Historische Tatsachen no. 7, Vlotho/Weser, 1980.
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Beschlagnahmt! Eingezogen! Verboten! Bücher, die wir nicht lesen dürfen!, Kritik no. 52, Kritik-Verlag, Mohrkirch 1981.

22. Wilhelm Stäglich, "*Der Auschwitz Mythos:* A Book and its Fate," *The Journal of Historical Review*, Spring 1984, p. 47-68.
Bulletin du "Comité contre l'application en 1983 des lois nazies de 1939 par l'Université Georg-August de Göttingen," n.d.

23. See "L'Affaire Roques," *in* André Chelain, *Faut-il fusiller Henri Roques?*, Polémiques (Ogmios Diffusion), Paris, 1986, p. 6-16.

24. See "L'Affaire Roques," *Le Monde Juif*, no. 122, April-June 1986, p.

49-79; "La campagne de presse. Les principaux articles et communiqués de presse de l'*Affaire Roques*" *in* André Chelain, *Faut-il fusiller Henri Roques?*, op. cit., p. I-XVIII.

25. See our article "Lo scandaloso *scandalo Roques*", *Orion*, n. 23, 1986, p. 189-190. The only attempt at a scholarly refutation of the doctoral thesis of Henri Roques is the article already cited, by Georges Wellers, "A propos d'une thèse de doctorat *explosive* sur le *Rapport Gerstein*," *Le Monde Juif*, No. 121, January-March 1986, p. 1-18. This article, with G. Wellers's most important writings on the "Gerstein Report," is refuted in detail in our work (title as in text), *Come si falsifica la storia: Georges Wellers e le "camere a gaz" di Belzec* (in preparation).

Part 2

1. IMT, vol. XIX, p. 483.
2. Abbé G. Hénocque, *Les Antres de la Bête*, Paris 1947, p. 115-116. Cited in: Robert Faurisson, *Mémoire en défense contre ceux qui m'accusent de falsifier l'histoire*, La Vieille Taupe, Paris, 1980, fascimile reproduction on p. 191-192.
3. Eugen Kogon, Hermann Langbein, Adalbert Rückerl et al., *Les Chambres à gaz, secret d'Etat*, Editions de Minuit, 1984, p. 230-231.
4. IMT, vol. V, p. 198 (PS-3249).
5. *Die Zeit*, no. 34, Friday 19 August 1960, p. 16.
6. Meant here are the camps Chelmno, Belzec, Treblinka, Majdanek, Sobibor and Auschwitz-Birkenau mentioned on page 105 (of the article referred to in the following note).
7. VfZ, 24th year, 1976, booklet 2, p. 109.
8. *Books and Bookmen*, London, April 1975, p. 5.
9. In fact, there is not the slightest evidence that the place in question ever had been or was destined to be a "gas chamber." See on this subject: Robert Faurisson, *Mémoire en défense contre ceux qui m'accusent de falsifier l'histoire*, op. cit., p. 197-220.
10. *Wie war es im KZ Dachau?* (How was it in the Dachau Concentration Camp?) Kuratorium für Sühnemal KZ Dachau, 1981, p. 16.
11. Idem, p. 30.
12. A unique exception—but limited to the camps of the Old Reich—is Olga Wormser-Migot who, in her analysis of the "eyewitness testimonies" on this subject, came to the conclusion that neither at Ravensbrück nor at Mauthausen had there ever been "gas chambers,"[a] thereby arousing the anger of her colleagues.[b] Supplement: Very recently Professor Michel de Boüard came to admit honestly: "In the monograph of Mauthausen which I wrote for *Revue d'Histoire de la Seconde Guerre mondiale* in 1954, in two places I spoke of a gas chamber. Reflecting on this later I said to myself: where did I acquire the conviction that there was a gas chamber in Mauthausen? It wasn't during my stay at the camp, for neither I, nor anyone else suspected that there was one there; it was rather a rumor I heard after the war, that's

granted. Then I noticed that in my text—although I supported most of my statements with references—there was no reference concerning the gas chamber . . ."[c]

a) Olga Wormser-Migot: *Le Système concentrationnaire nazi 1933-1945*, Universitaires de France, 1968, p. 541-544.

b) Germaine Tillion, *Ravensbrück*, Paris 1973, p. 235-248.

c) "La Thèse de Nantes," inquiry by Jacques Lebailly in *Ouest-France*, 2-3 August 1986, p. 6.

13. Serge Thion, *Vérité historique ou vérité politique? Le dossier de l'affaire Faurisson: La question des chambres à gaz*, La Vieille Taupe 1980, p. 87.
14. Gerald Reitlinger, *La Soluzione finale: Il tentativo di sterminio degli ebrei d'Europa 1939-1945*, Milan, 1965, p. 651.
15. Idem, p. 71.
16. Likwidacja zydowskiej Warszawy, "Treblinka," *Biuletyn Zydowskiego Instytutu Historycznego*, Warsaw, January-June 1951, p. 93-100. Citations: p. 95 and 99.
17. PS-3311. Accusation no. 6 against Hans Frank, Nuremberg 5 December 1945. An extract of this document was read during the Nuremberg trial. IMT vol. III, p. 632-633.
18. The American engineer Friedrich P. Berg, in an excellent technical study: "The Diesel Gas Chambers: Myth Within a Myth" (*The Journal of Historical Review*, Spring 1984), shows that a "gassing" by carbon monoxide produced by a diesel engine[a] couldn't be more irrational and inefficacious. While a diesel engine produces carbon monoxide at an average concentration of 0.4%, a gasoline engine normally emits 7.0% carbon monoxide and 1.0% oxygen. By adjusting the carburetor, a carbon monoxide concentration of 12% (thirty times more than that of a diesel engine!) can be attained, which is why "the diesel gas chamber story is incredible on these grounds alone." (p. 38)

    a) According to official historiography, carbon monoxide for the "gas chamber" was produced by diesel engines.
19. Yankel Wiernik, *A Year in Treblinka*, New York 1944. Wiernik claims to have been deported to Treblinka on 24 August 1942, when the small building, "with three gas chambers," already existed. The new building, "with ten gas chambers," was completed in five weeks after the end of August. The Polish report on the "steam chambers" was received during the "first half of September" 1942, so that the two "eye witness testimonies" concern the same period.
20. Idem, p. 18.
21. Ibidem.
22. Alexander Pechersky, *La rivolta di Sobibor*, Yiddish translation by N. Lurie, Moscow, Der Emes State Publishers, 1946. In Yuri Suhl, *Ed essi si ribellarono: Storia della resistenza ebraica contro il nazismo*, Milan, 1969, p. 31.
23. *Dokumenty i materialy*, opracowal Mgr Blumental, Lodz, 1946, vol. I, p. 211.

24. Central Commission for Investigation of German Crimes in Poland. *German Crimes in Poland*, Warsaw 1947, vol. II, p. 100.
25. *Frankfurter Rundschau*, 24 August 1950, p. 5
26. *Frankfurter Rundschau*, 22 August 1950, p. 4. According to the official historiography, the "gas chambers" at Sobibor didn't have cellars. (*Le Chambres à gaz, secret d'Etat*, op. cit., p. 144; *NS-Vernichtungslager im Spiegel deutscher Strafprozesse*, edited by Adalbert Rückerl, Munich, 1979, p. 163).
27. Michael Tregenza, "Belzec Death Camp," *The Wiener Library Bulletin*, no. 41-42, 1977, p. 16-17.
28. *Biuletyn Zydowskiego Instytutu Historycznego*, Warsaw, January-June 1954, no. 9-10, p. 307.
29. "Who knew of the Extermination? Kurt Gerstein's Story," *The Wiener Library Bulletin*, no. 9, 1955, p. 22.
30. *Polish Fortnightly Review*, 1 December 1942, p. 4.
31. Gerald Reitlinger, *La Soluzione finale*, op. cit., p. 172.
32. "News is Reaching the Polish Government in London about the Liquidation of the Jewish Ghetto in Warsaw,": Foreign Office Papers, FO 371-30917-5365, p. 79 (se also *The Black Book of Polish Jewry*, New York 1943, p. 131. Report by Dr. I. Schwarzbart). According to Martin Gilbert, the report in question was written by the "eyewitness" Jan Karski and sent by him on 25 November 1942 to the Polish government-in-exile in London (M. Gilbert, *Auschwitz und die Alliierten*, Munich, 1982, p. 107-109). On the "eyewitness testimony" of Jan Karski, see below.
33. Foreign Office Papers, FO 371-30924-5365, p. 122.
34. *The New York Times*, 20 December 1942, p. 23.
35. A. Silberschein, *Die Judenausrottung in Polen*, Geneva, 1944, V, p. 21-22.
36. *The New York Times*, 12 February 1944, p. 6.
37. Stefan Szende, *The Promise Hitler Kept*, London, 1945, p. 265.
38. A. Silberschein, *Die Judenausrottung in Polen*, Geneva, August 1944, III, p. 42-43.
39. Deformation of the name "Belzec," as may be seen from the context, where the other "extermination" camps, Treblinka and Sobibor, are mentioned. This deformation may be due to confusion with the small Polish town of Belzyce (very similar phonetically to Beldjitze) situated about 25 kms from Lublin, or perhaps to an error in translation from Polish to Russian, or from Russian to German.
40. IMT, vol. VII, p. 633-634.
41. Jan Karski, *Story of a Secret State*, Boston 1944. A similar story already had appeared—without referring precisely to Belzec—in the report of 25 November 1942,[a] and, with reference to Belzec, in the report of the Polish government-in-exile in London, 10 December 1942[b] and in a report received in London in December 1942.[c]

    a) Foreign Office papers, FO 371-30917-5365.

b) Foreign Office papers, FO 371-30924-5365. Cf. *The Black Book of Polish Jewry, op. cit.*

c) *The Black Book of Polish Jewry, op. cit.*

42. Biuletyn Glownej Komisji Badania Zbrodni Niemieckich w Polsce, Warsaw 1946, III, Oboz zaglady w Belzcu, p. 31-45 (English translation: Central Commission for the Investigation of German Crimes in Poland. *German Crimes in Poland*, Warsaw 1947, vol. II, "Belzec Extermination Camp," p. 89-96). M. Muszkat, *Polish Charges against German War Criminals*, Warsaw 1948, case no. 1372 (The Camp in Belzec), p. 223-232.
43. *Dokumenty i materialy*, op. cit., vol. I, p. 217-224.
44. Rudolf Reder, *Belzec*, Cracow, 1946; *Dokumenty i materialy*, op cit., vol. I, p. 221-224 (testimony of Rudolf Reder).
45. Thus far we have summarized and combined chapters XI and XII of our work *Il rapporto Gerstein: Anatomia di un falso* (Sentinella d'Italia, Monfalcone, 1985). The "testimony" of Rudolf Reder is analyzed in chapter VIII.
46. Saul Friedländer, *Kurt Gerstein ou l'ambiguïté du bien*, Casterman 1967, p. 109.
47. Helmut Krausnick, *Dokumentation zur Massenvergasung*, Bonn 1956, p. 3. Olga Wormser-Migot[a] and André Brissaud[b] express a more reserved judgement on the veracity of the "Gerstein report."

a) *Le Système concentrationnaire nazi 1933-1945*, op. cit., p. 426.

b) *Hitler et l'ordre noir*, Geneva 1974, p. 443, n. II.

In Chapter II *"La veridicità del rapporto Gerstein"* of our umpublished study *Come si falsifica la storia: Georges Wellers e le "camere a gaz" di Belzec*, we enumerate 72 internal contradictions and ocurrences belied by history that put the truth of the "Gerstein Report" gravely in question.

48. Pierre Vidal-Naquet, "Tesi sul revisionismo," *Rivista di storia contemporanea*, Turin, 1983, p. 7 et 8.
49. Idem, p. 6
50. Martin Gilbert, *Auschwitz und die Alliierten*, op. cit., p. 9.
51. *The New York Times*, 3 July 1944, p. 3 ("Two Death Camps Places of Horror").
52. Executive Office of the President, War Refugee Board, Washington D.C., *German Extermination Camps—Auschwitz and Birkenau*, November 1944.
53. See our study: *Auschwitz: un caso di plagio*, Edizioni La Sfinge, Parma 1986.
54. Executive Office of the President, War Refugee Board, op. cit., p. 14-16. The plan of the crematoria is on page 15. The citations are drawn from the translation: *Les Camps d'extermination allemands: Auschwitz et Birkenau*, Office français d'édition, Paris, 1945, p. 17-18.
55. Ibidem.
56. Ibidem.
57. Georges Wellers, *Les Chambres à gaz ont existé*, op. cit., p. 114-115.

Georges Wellers, "Auschwitz," *Les Chambres à gaz, secret d'Etat*, op. cit., p. 207-208 (plan of crematorium II on pages X-XI).

58. Eugen Kogon, Hermann Langbein, Adalbert Rückerl, *Les Chambres à gaz, secret d'Etat*, op. cit., p. 211.
59. IMT, vol. XX, p. 550 et 551.
60. Georges Wellers, *La Solution finale et la mythomanie néo-nazie*, Paris, 1979, p. 8.
61. Martin Gilbert, *Auschwitz und die Alliierten*, op. cit., p. 153.
62. Ibidem. This statement does not appear in the English edition (*Auschwitz and the Allies: The Politics of Rescue*, Arrow, London, 1984, p. 130.

62a. *Washington Daily News*, February 2, 1945, p. 2 and 35.

63. *Trial of Joseph Kramer and Forty-Four Others (The Belsen Trial)*, William Hodge and Company, London-Edinburgh-Glasgow, p. 67-68. For an in-depth examination of the false testimony of Ada Bimko, we refer you to our study *Auschwitz: due false testimonianze*, Edizioni La Sfinge, Parma, 1986.
64. Alberto Cavaliere, *I campi della morte in Germania nel racconto di una sopravissuta*, Milan, 1945, p. 40.
65. In the printed text of the judgement, only the first two letters of the family name of this witness are given.
66. Court of Assizes, in Frankfurt am Main, session of March 1949, C.F. Rüter, *Justiz und NS-Verbrechen, Sammlung deutschen Strafurteile wegen nationalsozialistischer Tötungsverbrechen 1945-1966*, Amsterdam 1968-1981, vol. XIII, p. 134.
67. IMT, vol. IV, p. 292.
68. *Storia illustrata*, special issue on the Nuremberg Trial, no. 156, November 1970, p. 78.
69. Louis de Jong, "Die Niederlande und Auschwitz," VfZ, 17th year, booklet 1, January, 1969, p. 9.
70. Court of Assizes Frankfurt am Main, session of 28 March 1949, C.F. Rüter, op. cit., p. 133.
71. Reszö Kastner, *Der Bericht des jüdischen Rettungskomitee aus Budapest*, Geneva, 1946, p. 30.
72. PS-2605.
73. Central Commission for Investigation of German Crimes in Poland. *German Crimes in Poland*, op. cit., vol. I, p. 83-90. For more details: *Hefte von Auschwitz*, Wydawnictwo Panstwowego Muzeum w Oswiecimiu, 6, 1962; 7, 1964.
74. *Der Kastner-Bericht über Eichmanns Menschenhandel in Ungarn*. Preface by Prof. Carlo Schmidt Munich 1961. The phrase "which were out of use since autumn 1943" is omitted. In our study *Wellers e i "gasati" di Auschwitz* we have brought up a grave chronological contradiction in the Exterminationist historiography on the subject of the deportation of the Hungarian Jews. In fact, while, according to certain documents, that deportation had ended on the 8th[a] or on the 10th[b] July 1944, it is seen that the "Chronicle of Events in the

Auschwitz-Birkenau Concentration Camp"[c] records the arrival of another 32 transports of Jews from Hungary between 15 July and 18 October 1944.

a) *Der Kastner Bericht über Eichmanns Menschenhandel in Ungarn*, op. cit., p. 136.

b) NG-5573; NG-5615.

c) *Hefte von Auschwitz*, 7, 8, 1964.

75. USSR-8.
76. Gerald Reitlinger, *La Soluzione finale*, op. cit., p. 559.
77. USSR-8.
78. The cremation of a cadaver in the very modern ovens of the firm "H.R. Heinicke Combustion and Smokestack Construction," of Stadhagen, requires 60 minutes when the combustion chamber is already at a minimum temperature of 800 degrees centigrade (letter from the manufacturer to the author, 6 August 1987). The 46 ovens (muffles) of Birkenau could thus not have incinerated more than 1,104 cadavers in 24 hours.
79. The Court of Assizes Frankfurt am Main, session of 27 May 1955, C.F. Rüter, op. cit., vol. XIII. After 1923 hydrocyanic gas was used for disinfection in Germany only in the form of Zyklon B. (Court of Assizes in Frankfurt am Main session 28 March 1949, C.F. Rüter, op. cit., vol. XIII). Zyklon B is an absorption of hydrocyanic acid in an inert porous base (diatomaceous earth, e.g.) and is packaged in hermetically sealed tins. (NI-9098).
80. IMT, vol. VII, p. 470.
81. Central Commission for Investigation of German Crimes in Poland. *German Crimes in Poland*, vol. I, p. 88.
82. Jan Sehn, *Le Camp de concentration d'Oswiecim-Brzezinka*, Warsaw, 1957, p. 147-148.
83. *Problèmes choisis de l'histoire du KL Auschwitz*, State Museum at Auschwitz, 1979, p. 45.
84. *Hefte von Auschwitz*, Wydawnictwo Panstwowego Muzeum w Oswiecimiu, 4, 1961, p. 110.
85. Jan Sehn, *Le Camp de concentration d'Oswiecim-Brzezinka, op. cit.*, p. 132.
86. Eugen Kogon, *Der SS-Staat: Der System der deutschen Konzentrationslager*, Munich, 1946, p. 133.
87. Georges Wellers, *Les Chambres à gaz ont existé*, op. cit., p. 129.
88. *Trial of Joseph Kramer and Forty-Four Others (The Belsen Trial)*, op. cit., p. 67.
89. Poliakov & Wulf, *Das Dritte Reich und die Juden*, Berlin, Grunewald, 1955, p. 264 and 265.
90. IMT, vol. VI, p. 242.
91. *Auschwitz vu par les SS*, State Museum at Auschwitz, 1974, p. 128.
92. Idem, p. 195.
93. Léon Poliakov, *Auschwitz*, Julliard, 1964, p. 166.

94. Central Commission for Investigation of German Crimes in Poland. *German Crimes in Poland*, op. cit., vol. I, p. 89.
95. *Hefte von Auschwitz*, Wydawnictwo Panstwowego Muzeum w Oswiecimiu, 7, 1964; 8, 1964.
96. Executive Office of the President, War Refugee Board, op. cit., p. 14. *Auschwitz et Birkenau*, French Publications Office, op. cit., p. 17.
97. Léon Poliakov, *Auschwitz*, op. cit., p. 162.
98. *Auschwitz: A Doctor's Eyewitness Account*, by Dr. Miklos Nyiszli. Translated by Tibere Kremer and Richard Seaver. Fawcett Crest, New York, 1961, p. 48. In the original Hungarian text it is not "several thousand people," but "ötezer ember," (five thousand persons). (Dr. Nyiszli Miklós, *Dr. Mengele boncolóorvosa voltam az auschwitz-i krematóriumban*, Világ, Budapest, 1947, p. 38.)
99. *Témoignages sur Auschwitz*, Paris, 1946, p. 161.
100. NO-1210/D-749-a (see below). Rudolf Höss, *Le Commandant d'Auschwitz parle*, Paris 1979, p. 273.
101. NI-11953.
102. *Auschwitz: A Doctor's Eyewitness Account*, *op. cit.*, pp. 44-45 ("about 200 yards"). The original Hungarian text says "körülbelül kétszaz méter," (about 200 meters). (*Dr. Mengele boncolóorvosa voltam az auschwitz-i krematóriumban*, *op. cit.*, p. 33.
103. Georges Wellers, "Essai de détermination du nombre de morts au camp d'Auschwitz," *Le Monde Juif*, no. 112, October-December 1983, p. 138.
104. Erich Kulka, "Auschwitz condoned," *The Wiener Library Bulletin*, no. I, 1968/69, vol. XXII, series 14, p. 3.
105. *Hefte von Auschwitz*, Wydawnictwo Panstwowego Muzeum w Oswiecimiu, 8, 1964, p. 66.
106. On this subject see: Heiner Lichtenstein, *Warum Auschwitz nicht bombardiert wurde*, Cologne, 1980.
107. These photos are more numerous and more interesting than those published in *The Holocaust Revisited*.
108. Executive Office of the President, War Refugee Board, op. cit., p. 36. *Auschwitz et Birkenau*, French Publications Office, op. cit., p. 34.
109. Dr. Miklos Nyiszli, *Auschwitz: A Doctor's Eyewitness Account*, *op. cit.*, p. 68.
110. NI-11984.
111. Central Commission for Investigation of German Crimes in Poland. *German Crimes in Poland*, op. cit., vol. 1, p. 88-89.
112. *Auschwitz vu par les SS*, *op. cit.*, p. 195. For an examination in depth of the "eyewitness testimonies" of Dr. S. Bendel, of Ada Bimko, and of Miklos Nyiszli, more extravagant and contradictory than they appear in this summary exposé, we refer back to our studies already mentioned: *Auschwitz: due false testimonianze* and *"Medico ad Auschwitz," La falsa testimonianza di Miklos Nyiszli* (to be published).
113. *Kommandant in Auschwitz: Autobiographische Aufzeichnungen des Rudolf Höss*, edited by Martin Broszat, Munich, 1981, p. 149.

That Rudolf Höss had been given the third degree by his English interrogators in 1946 has been admitted, and proven in 1983 by Rupert Butler in his work *Legions of Death* (Hamlyn Paperbacks, 1983). Robert Faurisson shows the historic importance of that admission, of whose consequences Rupert Butler had no idea. ("How the British obtained the confession of Rudolf Höss, commandant of the Auschwitz camp.") (*The Journal of Historical Review*, Vol. 7, No. 4.) For a detailed refutation of the "eyewitness testimony" of Rudolf Höss, refer to our study, *Auschwitz: Le false confessioni di Rudolf Höss* (Edizioni La Sfinge, Parma, 1987.)

114. *Kommandant in Auschwitz*, op. cit., p. 149, note 1.
115. PS-3868.
116. Gerald Reitlinger, *La Soluzione finale*, op. cit., p. 131-132.
117. Adalbert Rückerl, *NS-Vernichtungslager im Spiegel deutscher Strafprozesse*, op. cit., p. 133 and 200.
118. Central Commission for Investigation of German Crimes in Poland. *German Crimes in Poland*, op. cit., vol. I, p. 96.
119. Crematoria IV and II of Birkenau were finished on the 22nd and the 31st of March 1943, respectively. (*Helte von Auschwitz*, Wydawnictwo Panstwowego Muzeum w Oswiecimiu, 4, 1961, p. 85 and 87).
120. Crematoria II and III had five triple ovens each. (*Hefte von Auschwitz*, Wydawnictwo Panstwowego Muzeum w Oswiecimiu, 4, 1961, p. 110).
121. If they had been as efficent as those of the firm H.R. Reinicke (see note 78), the ovens of Birkenau crematoria II and III could not have burned more that 720 cadavers in 24 hours.
122. Crematoria V and III were finished April 4th and June 25th, 1943, respectively. (*Hefte von Auschwitz*, Wydawnictwo Panstwowego Muzeum w Oswiecimiu, 4, 1961, p. 88 and 109).
123. Crematoria IV and V each had one oven with eight mufflers (*Hefte von Auschwitz*, Wydawnictwo Panstwowego Muzeum w Oswiecimiu, 4, 1961, p. 110. See also: *Problèmes choisis de l'histoire du KL Auschwitz*, op. cit., p. 44).
124. PS-3868.
125. *Kommandant in Auschwitz*, op. cit., p. 167.
126. William L. Shirer, *Storia del Terzo Reich*, Turin 1969, p. 1476.
127. PS-3868 and NI-034.
128. It is said that a total of 405,222 detainees were registered at Auschwitz. (*Problèmes choisis de l'histoire du KL Auschwitz*, op. cit., p. 17).
129. See Part I, Section I (*JHR*, Vol. 8, No. 2, Summer 1988).
130. *Kommandant in Auschwitz*, op. cit., p. 150.
131. Suzanne Labin, *Staline le Terrible*, Paris, 1948, p. 138.
132. Gerald Reitlinger, *La Soluzione finale*, op. cit., p. 617.
133. Freda Utley, *Kostspielige Rache*, Hamburg 1951, p. 215 and following. On the tortures inflicted on the accused in the Malmédy Trial, see also: *La Vérité sur l'affaire de Malmédy et sur le colonel SS Jochen Peiper*,

Editions du Baucens, 1976; Dietrich Ziemssen, *The Malmédy Trial*, Institute for Historical Review, 1981.

134. IMT. vol. XIX, p. 440.

135. "Note rassinieriane con appendice sulla persecuzione giudiziaria di R. Faurisson," *Alla Bottega*, March-April 1983, p. 41.

Crematoriums II and III of Birkenau: A Critical Study

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Translated by Tom Kerr

Material, criticism, and suggestions furnished by the Italian investigator Carlo Mattogno have been of great value to me in the completion of this study. The author, however, assumes sole responsibility for any errors or shortcomings which may be noted in the following pages.

I. Introduction

Until a few years ago, it was a matter of practically unanimous belief that the leaders of Germany during World War II actually carried out a plan for the physical extermination of people of Jewish origin. Yet that systematic slaughter—the Holocaust—has in recent time been called into question by research scholars of a number of countries. The enormity of the accusations, the frailty of the proofs adduced, contradictions on the part of witnesses, the use of torture to exact "confessions," and the universal absence during the war of any knowledge of something which, had it occurred, could not have been concealed: these were the principal clues that led a few serious students, after meticulous research, to deny the historicity of this supposed collective crime.[1]

But where, in our judgment, the Holocaust legend suffers its greatest weakness is in its purely technical aspect; that is, in the instruments—the weapons of the crime—that were supposedly used to kill those millions of human beings: the gas chambers. They constitute the Achilles heel of the legend. And it is for that reason perhaps that they have up to now remained wrapped in a cloak of dense fog. Those authors partisan to the official thesis, on the other hand, have considered the Holocaust an undoubted fact. For them, it has been sufficient to show, for example, that a convoy of prisoners had arrived at Auschwitz, to consider them without further ado as "annihilated by gas." A good example of this is provided by Martin Gilbert,[2] a reputable historian and the official biographer of Churchill, who had to admit the skepticism and incredulity of the

Allies during the war with regard to the stories about Auschwitz that the Zionist organizations took it upon themselves to spread. In compensation, he reminds us on almost every page of the exact number of persons who, according to the *Kalendarium* published by the Auschwitz museum after the war, were "gassed" each day.[3] Gilbert accepts these completely unverified statistics as though they were a kind of revealed truth requiring neither critical appraisal nor proof. Gilbert did not take it into account that if the Allies remained skeptical and unbelieving about the rumors of a massive slaughter in a place like Auschwitz, which was crammed with basic industries serving Germany's war effort, a place moreover subject to a strict scrutiny by the intelligence services, it was perhaps simply because no such slaughter had taken place.

For the purpose of throwing a bit of light on the question, in what follows we shall analyze information we have obtained about two of the supposed *gas chambers* of the Birkenau concentration camp, which was included administratively in the Auschwitz complex. We make a special point of these installations because they were presumably—or so the official thesis claims—the largest slaughterhouses Hitler had at his disposal for carrying out his extermination plans. But if, as we conclude in this critical study, these installations were simply crematoriums for human cadavers, such as those utilized in all large cities for reasons of sanitation, and were not capable of being used for criminal purposes, than the Holocaust legend will have been undermined in one of its essential foundations.

In this work we shall limit ourselves exclusively to the specific study of crematoriums II and III of Birkenau,[4] without going into such aspects as the structure and functioning of the Auschwitz complex, the rate of the deportations, or the genesis of the Holocaust legend. Those subjects have been dealt with from various points of view and with sufficient thoroughness in the specialized literature.

Finally, we wish to make clear that our aim is not an exhaustive study, but rather, as the German researcher, W. Stäglich has said, "to set forth, to check, and to test in accordance with objective criteria the proofs presented for the claimed 'death factory of Auschwitz.'"[5] It is for this reason that we deem this work to be a "critical study."

II. The Site

Crematoriums II and III of Birkenau were situated at approximately fifteen hundred meters in a straight line from the railroad line linking Cracow, the administrative center of the Government-General of occupied Poland, with Ostrava (Moravia) and Vienna (see Figure 1). For that matter, it does not seem the most propitious place to set up installations designed for carrying out a plan, theoretically ultra-secret, for the extermination and cremation

of some thousands of persons per day. Reitlinger's version of things, according to which "passengers, when going past Auschwitz, customarily crowded up to the windows of the train in an attempt to see the silhouette of the crematory chimneys,"[6] is perfectly compatible with the topographical facts, but demonstrates that the placement of the crematoriums was absurd if any attempt was being made to carry out a secret activity.

Crematoriums II and III were constructed at the southwest of the Birkenau area (see Figure 2). Their situation seems logical in terms of the general plan of this concentration camp: on the east were the *Kommandantur* and billeting for the SS personnel; in the center, the large sectors BI, BII, BIII (the latter under construction) for quartering the prisoners; and on the west, the various camp installations and services such as the four crematoriums, water purification plant (*Kläranlage*), the sauna (*Zentralsauna*), and the *Effektenlager* or *Kanada*, where the personal effects of the prisoners were deposited.

Crematoriums II and III were in an open space of easy access. Their situation rendered them completely visible from the camp access platform, as can be seen in Figure 3. This is corroborated by witness testimony:

> The platform itself was situated some meters from the tall chimneys of the gas chambers and crematory, whose silhouette then held no significance for us other than that of a factory.[7]

Mention has been made that the crematoriums were protected from prying eyes by a border of trees and bushes. In this connection, a document of German origin speaks of a "green border" which was supposed to serve as the natural limit of the crematorium area.[8] However, the illustrated documents we have examined fail to show this "green border," which in any case would have been absolutely insufficient to conceal the alleged massive extermination (see Figure 4).

III. Description

Crematoriums II and III were identical. The plane of one corresponded to that of the other in symmetrical inversion. Each of them consisted of the following parts (see Figure 6):

a) Cremation room (see Figure 6). It was fitted with five crematory furnaces, each with three hearths or muffle furnaces.[9]

b) Annex buildings. On one side of the cremation room, according to Figure 7, were located the coke bunker, an office, the dwelling of the commanding officer, and the living quarters for the smelters of the gold teeth. On the other side—still according to the same document—the gold teeth smelting plant and the execution room were to be found. In an area adjacent to the cremation hall

were to be found the chimney and the three Topf "air intake installations" (*Saugzuganlage*) that facilitated the draft and functioning of the crematories.[10] [Throughout this article, "crematory" refers to the actual ovens; "crematorium" refers to the building as a whole. —Ed.]

c) Underground mortuary 1 (Leichenkeller 1). Its dimensions were 7 x 30 = 210 square meters in area.[11] It has a height of 2.40 meters. The ceiling was supported by seven columns. It was almost completely below ground and covered with insulating materials to protect it against water and heat (layers of earth, gravel, and waterproof material, probably slate). It had a single entry and exit door with dimensions of 1.80 x 1.90 meters according to our own calculations, based on the original plan. Ventilation and renewal of the air supply was effected by a ventilation (*Belüftung*) duct and an "exhaust conduit" (*Entlüftungskanal*) built into the lower part of the side wall.

According to the official thesis, Leichenkeller 1 was in reality the mournfully celebrated extermination "gas chamber."

d) Underground mortuary 2 (Leichenkeller 2). Its dimensions were 7.93 x 50 = 396.5 square meters in area.[12] It had the same characteristics regarding facing and insulation as Leichenkeller 1. *It is claimed that this was the "undressing room" where the victims, who has no suspicion of the fate which awaited them, took off their clothes before passing into the gas chamber.*

e) Underground mortuary 3 (Leichenkeller 3). Of more modest dimensions than the aforementioned ones. There is no record of its purpose in the context of the official thesis.

Figure 8 provides us with an aerial view of both crematoriums, and Figure 9 a partial view of crematorium III.

IV. Documents

We will consider below a series of documents, supposedly of German origin, which are frequently alleged by partisans of the official thesis to be proof of the criminal character of crematoriums II and III.

First is an exceptional document identified under code NO-4473, the text of which we reproduce as follows:

(Copy) 29 January 1943
Bftgb. No. 22250/43/Bi/L
Subject: Crematorium II. Condition of the building.
Reference: Telegram of the SS-WVHA Nr. 2648 of 28.1.43
Attached document: 1 test report

To the chief of Amtsgruppe C,
SS Brigadeführer and Major General
of the Waffen-SS, Dr. Engineer KAMMLER,
Berlin-Lichterfelde-West
Unter den Eichen 126-135

Thanks to the use of all available forces working day and night shifts, and in spite of the immense difficulties and freezing weather, crematorium II has been completed with the exception of a few construction details. The furnaces were fired up in the presence of the chief engineer inspector of the firm of Topf u. Söhne of Erfurt, which was charged with its construction, and they are functioning perfectly. It has not yet been possible to remove the planking from the concrete ceiling of the cellar for cadavers (Leichenkeller) because of the frost. However, that is of no importance inasmuch as the gasification [or "gassing"] cellar (Vergasungskeller) can be used for this purpose.

The firm of Topf u. Söhne was not able to deliver the ventilation equipment ordered by the Central Construction Office on time because of the unavailablility of freight cars. After the arrival of the ventilation and exhaust equipment, work will be started immediately on its installation, so we may anticipate that it will be completely in service on 20 February 1943.

Attached is a report by the test engineer of the firm of Topf u. Söhne of Erfurt.

Chief of the Central Construction Office of the
Waffen-SS and Police Auschwitz

SS-Hauptsturmführer

Figure 10 shows a facsimile of the German original.

Supporters of the official thesis maintain that the term "Vergasungskeller" (celler for "gassing" or gasification) proves incontrovertibly the existence of a gas chamber in Leichenkeller 1 of crematorium II and III.[13] Some Revisionists on the contrary argue or have argued that the term alluded to the place where the gas mixture was made that fed the furnaces. "Vergasung" would thus have the sense of "gasification" or "carburetion."[14] But even within the framework of this interpretation, we do not believe that the Vergasungskeller mentioned in document NO-4473 was Leichenkeller 1 for the following reasons:

a) The designers of the installation would have to have provided a space for the carburetion process, basic in a crematory, rather than adapt to an area (Leichenkeller 1) initially designed for another purpose.

b) Crematoriums IV and V of Birkenau, both with powerful crematories of eight muffle furnaces, lacked a space of similar proportions for carrying out the operation of "carburetion."

c) Without being specialists in the matter, it seems to us that the operation of producing the gas mixture for feeding the crematory furnaces would have to be carried out in an area immediately behind or adjacent to the furnaces, and not in an underground area separated from the the cremation room.

Nor does the official thesis seem conclusive to us, since, apart from the reasons of a general nature which we set forth in section VIII, no document known to date permits the identification of Leichenkeller 1 as the Vergasungskeller.[15] The fact is that in the few plans of crematoriums II and III that we know of, there is no space characterized as a Vergasungskeller, which need not surprise us given the fact that they are preliminary drawings of a general type (Figure 5, for example, is a preliminary sketch). It is very probable that after a careful examination of all the detailed plans of crematoriums II and III, it would be possible to know the exact location of the Vergasungskeller. Professor Faurisson has told us, for example, that the plans of the Leichenkeller of the Sachsenhausen camp (1940) consist of around ninety pages.[16] It is thus our opinion that only after an exhaustive study of the documents stored in the Auschwitz museum would it be possible to come up with the solution to this precise point.

* * * * *

Another document frequently adduced as proof is that classified under code NO-4465, from which we extract the following:

> We point out for the present . . . that the three gas-tight doors [towers?] which were the object of our request of 18 January 1943 . . . should be built exactly to the same dimensions and specifications of the doors [towers?] already delivered.
>
> At this time we remind you of another request of 6 March 1943 about the delivery of a gas-tight door 100 x 192 for morturary 1 of crematorium III. This door should be identical to the door of the cellar of crematorium II in the opposite location; it should be provided with an 8 millimeter peephole of double glass, reinforced, and with gaskets of rubber. This request should be considered as of particular urgency.[17]

The first thing to note is that the dimensions of the "gas-tight door" (Gastür) do not coincide with those of the door of Leichenkeller 1 as it is shown in a plan (cf. Figure 7); in the latter, as we have already pointed out, the dimensions were approximately 1.80 x 1.90 meters. On the other hand, it would not be very functional to build a door scarcely 1 meter in width in a space from which it would be necessary to haul out thousands of cadavers (fifteen hundred, two thousand, three thousand, or four thousand, according to the various versions) after each spell of "gassing." These dimensions do not square with what one would have a right to expect of a well-planned

installation for mass exterminations. Moreover, the utilization of gas-tight doors was common in premises that were capable of being converted into air raid shelters, and which were then provided with protection against air attacks with poison gas. The utilization of a gas-tight door was thus not to be wondered at in an underground room capable of being used, in case of necessity, as a shelter.

So the fact that the Germans installed gas-tight doors does not necessarily prove that they installed gas chambers for killing people.

* * * * *

As for the crematory furnaces, there exists a letter of 28 June 1943 from the director of the Central Construction Office of the Waffen-SS and Police, Auschwitz (*Zentralbauleitung der Waffen-SS und Polizei Auschwitz*) to SS-Sturmbannführer Bischoff in which he indicates the capacity of the crematoriums of Auschwitz-Birkenau. With regard to the crematoriums in which we are interested here, he says:

II. new crematorium (Birkenau) 1,440 cadavers
5 crematories – 3 muffle furnaces

III. new crematorium (Bikenau) 1,440 cadavers
5 crematories – 3 muffle furnaces[18]

The stated cremation capacity corresponds to a time span of twenty-four hours. Therefore each muffle furnace would have to consume ninety-six cadavers per day, or, put another way, one cadaver every fifteen minutes. This is an absurd figure, as a majority of the Revisionist authors have made clear. Stäglich states that "the incineration of a body in an ultramodern crematory furnace takes an hour and a half to two hours."[19] For Italian researcher C. Mattogno, who cites as reference the *Enciclopedia Italiana*, "cremation of a cadaver lasts 60-75 minutes, with a consumption of about 300 kgs. of wood in gasoline furnaces; an hour and a half to two hours, with a consumption of 100-150 kgs. of bundles of kindling in direct combustion furnaces."[20] For his part, Professor Faurisson states that in "the present-day crematorium of Charlottenburg-Spandau, each furnace burns no more than 15 to 17 cadavers in 24 hours."[21] L.A. Rollins culls the following information published by the *Los Angeles Times*: "In the cremation process, a corpse is put into a furnace and subjected to a temperature of nearly 2,000 degrees for a period of two or three hours."[22] The shortest incineration period we have been able to find is from "50 to 80 minutes."[23]

It is symptomatic moreover that the signer of the document, Bischoff, was not bothered by the Allies after the war, despite the fact that he must have known better than anyone else about those supposed human slaughterhouses whose construction he supervised.[24]

* * * * *

Recently the French researcher, J.C. Pressac, located a document that allegedly is "definitive proof" of the existence of at least one gas chamber in crematorium III of Birkenau (see Figure 11). This "proof" is a requisition order—or delivery order—of materials for crematorium III. It is signed by the director of the Central Construction Office of the Waffen-SS and Police, Auschwitz (Leiter der Zentralbauleitung der Waffen SS und Polizei Auschwitz) and by the Chief of Administration (Verwaltungsführer). On the left-hand side of this document the handwritten words "Leichenkeller 1" appear, followed by the quantities of articles requested or delivered. Listed are "12 globe lights" (*Kugellampen*), "2 faucets" (*Zapfhähne*), "14 showerheads" (*Brausen*), and "1 gas-tight door" (*gasdichte Tür*). This last notation is handwritten. In response to questions by a newspaperman, S. Klarsfeld, a colleague of Pressac's, commented on this document as follows:

> A document which mentions at the same time a gas-tight door and 14 showerheads. So, let's be logical. If it's a matter of a shower room, why this gas-tight door? This is unshakable proof.

This document proves nothing. The Germans modified those premises that were capable of serving as shelters against air attacks employing poison gas.[25] It has been proven that the Allies bombarded Birkenau at least once, on 13 September 1944.[26] Leichenkeller 1 of crematoriums II and III, being underground, could in case of necessity have served as shelters.

V. Specialist Reports

In Addendum II to his book, G. Wellers publishes a special chemical study made in Cracow on 15 December 1945 on the remains of the closure devices of the ventilation openings of Leichenkeller 1 of crematorium II; on hair from women who had been "gassed"; and on metallic objects encountered in that hair.[27] The report concludes with the affirmation that in all those materials, "hydrocyanic acid was shown to be present," which appears to confirm the thesis of a criminal employment of the crematoriums. However, there is an incongruity in this report which leads us to consider it with the greatest reserve. Since the ventilation openings mentioned are not evident in the plan we are acquainted with, it is probable they were a later addition, possibly for the purpose of putting the premises to some other use. This interpretation might support the thesis of the air raid shelter. There was already a precedent for it. Crematorium I of Auschwitz was converted into a shelter in 1943.[28]

However, a most careful analysis of the air photo taken by the American air force in August of 1944 (see Figure 9) allows us to

show that the four dark spots on the roof of Leichenkeller 1 are approximately 3.2 x 2 meters in size.[29] These measurements are not reconcilable with the size of the holes through which supposedly the gas was introduced into the chamber, according to the supporters of the official doctrine.[30]

The specialist's report speaks of "four complete air vent closures and four damaged ones found during the visit to crematorium II of Birkenau." In the aerial photograph taken in August of 1944, we see only four of these supposed—and enormous—openings. On the other hand, J.C. Pressac mentions that when the Russians reached Auschwitz, they found "the zinc openings of the overhead ventilation of Leichenkeller 1/gas chamber of crematorium II stored in the Auschwitz *Bauhof*,"[31] which contradicts the statement of the expert report to the effect that they had been found "during the visit to crematorium II of Birkenau."

But even admitting the expert's report to be irreproachable we could not necessarily conclude that Leichenkeller 1 was a homicidal gas chamber. It would be perfectly plausible that this building had been fumigated or disinfected with hydrocyanic acid, a not infrequent occurrence in the concentration camp installations, especially those designed for containing cadavers.

Lastly, it seems astonishing to us that together with the hair, used for industrial purposes in a war economy, "metallic objects" (eyeglass frames, zinc bodkins, and brass clasps and hairpins) were to be found. We doubt that the Germans—or their assistants—effected the haircutting with such haste and awkwardness.

Nor can we, accordingly, consider this specialist's report as a conclusive and evidential proof of the existence of a gas chamber for killing people.

VI. Eyewitness Testimony

Next we shall briefly set forth the principal testimonies which, in the judgment of G. Wellers, incontrovertibly prove—"with an abundance of proofs"—the use of crematoriums II and III of Birkenau for the mass extermination of human beings.[32]

Two of the testimonies, those of Rudolf Höss and Pery Broad, come from members of the SS; the remaining two, those of Bendel and Wetzler, from Jewish internees.

We shall limit ourselves to analyzing the paragraphs in these testimonies wherein express reference is made to the crematoriums, from the point of view of their veracity, and without entering into an analysis of their authenticity, which has been subjected to very harsh criticism by a number of Revisionist authors.[33]

a) Rudolf Höss (commander of Auschwitz until 1 December 1943).

> The two large crematoriums I (II) and II (III) were constructed during the course of the winter of 1942/1943 and put into service in the spring of 1943. Each of them had five triple-hearth furnaces, and they could incinerate about two thousand cadavers in twenty-four hours . . . The two crematoriums I (II) and II (III) had underground rooms for disrobing and gas chambers that could be ventilated or have the air evacuated from them. The cadavers were transported by means of an elevator to the crematory furnaces above . . .
>
> The process of exterminaiton in Auschwitz was carried out in the following manner: the Jews slated for extermination were led to the crematoriums, men and women separately, in the calmest possible way. In the rooms set aside for disrobing, the special detail prisoners employed there told them in their own language that they had come to take a shower and be deloused . . . After undressing, the Jews entered the gas chamber. This was provided with showers and water pipes, which really gave it the look of a bathroom. The women and children entered first; they were followed by the men, who were always in the minority. This almost always went calmly . . . then the door was rapidly closed and the bolt thrown and the "disinfectors," already alerted, threw the "cyclon" through the skylight and across the ceiling into the pipes through which it reached the ground. Thanks to to that, the gas spread out immediately. Through the peephole in the door it could be seen that those who were closest to the pipe through which the gas arrived were falling down dead. It may be stated that death was immediate for a third of those locked in the room. The others staggered, screamed, tried to find air. But their shrieks were forthwith changed into death rattles, and in a few minutes all had fallen to the ground. At the end of twenty minutes maximum, no one was moving . . . Half an hour after the sending in of the gas, the door was opened and the ventilation equipment turned on. Removal of the cadavers was begun immediately. The bodies showed no special signs; there was neither contortion nor a change in color . . . The work detail immediately busied itself extracting the gold teeth from the cadavers and cutting off the women's hair. The bodies were then immediately transported by elevator up to the crematories, which had meanwhile been ignited.[34]

Critique:

—Even though the wording is a bit confused, it may be deduced from the context that the aforementioned cremation capacity corresponds to each crematorium. However, the possibility of incinerating two thousand cadavers in five crematories of three muffle furnaces each is absurd. It would be equivalent to nearly six cadavers an hour per muffle furnace, or what amounts to the same thing, less then eleven minutes per cadaver.

—According to the plan, the dimensions of the freight elevator were approximately 2 x 1.30 meters. Not very practical, therefore, for transporting the two thousand cadavers up to the level of the crematories.

–One would hardly be able to see through the peephole of the door how those persons closest to the "pipe" which fed in the gas "were falling down dead," since due to the crowding of the room (nearly two thousand people in 210 square meters), it would not be possible to see beyond the first row of the human mass. Apart from the fact that it would be physically impossible to "fall" in an agglomeration of nine persons per square meter.

–Höss's expression that "the door was opened and the ventilation equipment turned on" implies that these two actions were carried out *simultaneously*, which would have produced a catastrophic effect as the gas spread outside the room, putting the very lives of the executioners in danger.

b) Pery Broad (low-ranking member–*Unterscharführer*–of the Auschwitz garrison):

> Construction of the four new crematoriums in Birkenau, two of which were to be equipped with underground gas chambers, was speeded up by every available means. In each chamber, 4,000 units could be gassed simultaneously . . . In crematoriums I (II) and II (III), these rooms [for disrobing] were also underground. A stone staircase about two meters wide led to the underground rooms . . . Crematoriums I (II) and II (III) were equipped with fifteen furnaces, each of which could hold four or five bodies.[35]

Critique:

– The simultaneous "gassing" of four thousand "units" is absolutely implausible. It would have meant cramming in 19 persons per square meter.

– Crematoriums II and III were provided with five crematories (multiple furnaces) each, not fifteen. Each crematory had three muffle furnaces. The capacity which Broad attributes to each furnace (in reality, muffle furnace) merits as much belief as the four thousand "units" introduced in the gas chamber.

c) Dr. P. Bendel (Auschwitz internee):

> A double railway line brought the deportees to the very door of the twin crematoriums 1 and 2. With their spacious rooms provided with telephones and radios, an ultramodern dissection room, and a museum of anatomical exhibits, they constituted, as an SS man unashamedly told me, "the best thing of this sort ever done." Completed in January of 1943, their inauguration was honored with the presence of Himmler in person . . . The convoy of those condemned to death entered, by means of a stone stairway, into a large underground room which served as a disrobing room. The instructions were that everyone had to bathe and then immediately pass on to the disinfection . . . From there, completely naked, they went through a narrow corridor into the true gas chambers (two in number). Constructed of reinforced concrete, one has the impression

> upon entering them that the ceiling was falling on your head, it was so low. In the middle of these rooms, coming down from the ceiling, two pipes with a grating around them and an exterior valve served for the emission of the gases. Through a little skylight placed in the double door of solid oak, the SS were able to follow the frightful death throes of all those unfortunates. The cadavers were taken out immediately after by the men of the work detail and placed in an elevator that carried them back up to the ground floor where the sixteen furnaces were located. Their total capacity was around two thousand cadavers in 24 hours.[36]

Critique:

– Crematoriums I (II) and II (III) were not completed in January of 1943 but in March and June, respectively, of the same year.[37] Moreover, Himmler could not have been present at the "inauguration," since he visited Auschwitz for the last time in July of 1942.[38]

– The official thesis maintains that there was only one gas chamber (Leichenkeller 1) in each crematorium, and not two as this witness claims. These gas chambers were not "so low" as Bendel affirms. The median height, as we previously indicated, was 2.40 meters.

– The total number of crematories in each crematorium, as has been stated several times, was five, each with three muffle furnaces; therefore, Bendel's version of the sixteen furnaces is false.

d) Alfred Wetzler (Auschwitz internee):

> At present there are four crematoriums in operation in Birkenau, two large ones, I and II, and two small, III and IV. Those of type I and II consist of three parts: a) the furnace room; b)the great hall; c) the gas chamber. An enormous chimney rises above the furnace room, around which are grouped nine furnaces, each with four openings; each opening can receive three normal cadavers at one time, and at the end of an hour and a half the corpses are completely consumed. That represents a daily capacity of around 2,000 bodies. Near this room there is a large reception hall arranged so as to give the impression of being the lobby of a public bath. It holds 2,000 people, and apparently there is a similar waiting room on the floor below. From there, a door and several stairsteps take you to the gas chamber, which is very long and narrow. The walls of this room appear to contain shower entrances, for the purpose of deceiving the victims. In the ceiling are fixed three little doors that can be sealed hermetically from the outside. A track leads from the gas chamber toward the crematory room. The administering of the gas is done as follows: the unfortunate victims are taken to the hall (b) where they are ordered to disrobe . . . Next the victims are brought together into the gas chamber (c). In order to squeeze this crowd into the cramped space, shots are frequently fired for the purpose of inducing those who have already got to the far end to move still closer together. When everyone is

> inside, the heavy doors are closed. Then comes a short pause, probably to let the temperature of the room rise to a certain level, after which the SS men, wearing gas masks, climb to the roof, open the little doors, and drop a preparation in powder form taken from metal canisters labelled "Cyclon," "For use against parasites." . . . At the end of three minutes everyone in the room has died. No one ever survived this treatment, whereas it was not uncommon to discover signs of life in those who had been executed in the birch forest, because of the primitive methods employed there. Next the room is opened, ventilated, and the Sonderkommando piles up the bodies on flatbed trucks and transports them to the crematory rooms where the incineration takes place.[39]

Critique:

– We already know that each crematorium was provided with five crematories of three muffle furnaces each. The reference to the nine furnaces and four openings is pure invention.

– The "great hall" is also a product of Wetzler's imagination, just like the "waiting room " on the ground floor. The "gas chamber" and the "crematory room" were not connected by a "track" but, as we know, by an elevator.

–Accordingly, if the only means of access to the crematories from the supposed gas chamber was the freight elevator, the "flatbed truck" mentioned in the text would serve no purpose.

– It would not be necessary for the SS men wearing gas masks to "climb" to the gas chamber, since the latter was underground, and its ceiling was practically at ground level.

– But the best way of convincing ourselves that we are faced with apocryphal evidence is to compare the plan contained in Wetzler's supposed original document (see Figure 12) with Figure 5, put out by the Auschwitz museum. The conclusion is obvious: Wetzler has never seen the place he describes.

* * * * * *

G. Wellers, in another work, deals with the testimony of Henryk Tauber, an ex-prisoner of Auschwitz, given on 24 May 1945 before the examining magistrate of the Court of Cracow. In general, this testimony is in agreement with the official thesis. However, it contains a contradiction where he states that he was assigned to the Sonderkommando of crematorium II on 4 March 1943, inasmuch as this crematorium was not turned over to the camp administration until the 31st day of that month. H. Tauber further declared:

> Between these two rooms [the disrobing room and the gas chamber] there was a corridor to which there was access from the outside by way of few stairs, and a chute down which they flung the cadavers coming from the camp, to convey them to the crematories.[40]

This chute for cadavers establishes at least that the Germans had designed the crematoriums *also* for the incineration of prisoners who died from natural causes or epidemics, since, as we shall see, the "circuit" followed by those destined for extermination in the gas chambers was different. The tacit acknowledgement of the mixed use of the crematoriums that is derived from Tauber's statement is per se disturbing for the credibility of the official doctrine. It is difficult to accept that the Germans had established a "circuit" for the cremation of the deceased from non-criminal causes which interfered with that followed by the victims of the gas chambers. It would have been much simpler to take the ones who died from natural causes directly to the crematory furnaces, avoiding their passage through the crowded basement of the crematorium.

Finally, it must be emphasized that all these testimonies are mutually irreconcilable. For example:

– For Höss, the capacity of the gas chambers was three thousand persons, for Broad four thousand, and for Wetzler two thousand.

– The number of crematory furnaces per crematorium was five for Höss (each with three hearths or muffle furnaces), fifteen for Broad, sixteen for Dr. Bendel, and nine (each with four openings) for Wetzler.

– Each crematorium had one gas chamber according to Höss and Wetzler, and two according to Bendel.

– The openings for the introduction of gas into the chamber were several (without specifying) for Höss, two for Bendel, and three for Wetzler.

– The doors of the gas chamber were one for Höss, one "double door" for Bendel, and several (without specifying) for Wetzler.

– The duration of the execution for "gassing" was twenty to thirty minutes for Höss and three minutes for Wetzler.

– The duration of the cremation of one cadaver was, on the average, eleven minutes for Höss and an hour and a half for Wetzler.

In view of the foregoing, one may well ask whether there is really anything in which these testimonies coincide. That notwithstanding, G. Wellers has the audacity to offer them as proof of the existence of the gas chambers, stating that the divergencies produced are "inevitable and natural."[41]

VII. An Absurd Extermination Process

Now let us compare the alleged extermination, just as the official thesis claims it was carried out in crematoriums II and III, with the physical configuration, capacity, and dimensions of these installations (see Figure 13).

a. Entrance to the "disrobing room." Access to the basement of the crematorium was originally by a door located in the main building itself, since Leichenkeller 1 and 2 lacked direct access from the outside. At least that is what one deduces from the plan. But in accordance with some testimonies, a stairway was presumably built at one end of Leichenkeller 2 in order to give access to the latter directly, a matter that is confirmed upon viewing photographs of the ruins of the crematoriums. On the other hand, we find no explanation of why the Germans constructed an underground "disrobing room," when it would have been simpler and more economical to make it at ground level. On the other hand, the location underground was perfectly logical if in reality it was a question of a mortuary, just as the plans indicate.

But let us follow the official thesis. Let us accept that two thousand, three thousand or four thousand persons used the aforementioned stairway to enter the 396.5 square meters (less what it would be necessary to deduct for the space occupied by the eleven columns that supported the ceiling) of Leichenkeller 2. By straining our imagination, let us suppose that we have managed to accommodate five, seven, or ten persons per square meter, according to the various sources. Think of the discomfort and nervous strain of maneuvering and getting undressed in that mass of people, bearing in mind that the members of the Sonderkommando *also* went into the disrobing room in order to calm down the victims (testimony of Rudolf Höss). In those circumstances, the possibility for many of them to put their clothes on the racks (testimony of Dr. Bendel) would be very limited, taking into account also the existence of the "wooden benches" (testimony of Henryk Tauber), which would even further reduce the available space.

b. Once undressed, the victims would go out through a narrow corridor to reach a little vestibule (*Vorraum*) which gave access to the gas chamber. In the nature of things, the latter room, scarcely 210 square meters in area, would already be chock-full before the last victims had got out of the disrobing room. But let us put that problem aside and imagine that the Germans had succeeded in stuffing the two thousand, three thousand, or four thousand people—who still did not suspect anything—into the gas chamber. To do so, it would be necessary to *press* nine, fourteen, or nineteen persons respectively into each square meter. And in that precise moment, the SS would proceed to "gas" the crowd by means of a procedure which we shall describe in detail further on.

c. The "gassing" once completed, the energetic members of the Sonderkommando had to get on with the hauling of the cadavers from the jam-packed gas chamber of 30 x 7 meters with only one door approximately 1.80 x 1.90 meters (or 2 x 1.92 if we credit document NO-4465). An accomplishment that would undoubtedly

have taken a great deal of time, even for the most enthusiastic Stakhanovites of extermination.

The next phase consisted in the cutting of hair and the extraction of gold teeth from the cadavers, a labor which, apart from being slow and awkward (jaws clenched by rigor mortis), would also be very dangerous, since the lethal agent (hydrocyanic acid), a very penetrating gas, would have got into the mucus and been retained in the mouth and in the folds of the body, as well as in the hair.[42]

Afterwards, so the official thesis claims, they would proceed to raise the cadavers up to the level of the cremation room by means of the little freight elevator (approximately 2 x 1.30 meters) located in the same vestibule in which the cadavers were being piled up on top of those the members of the Sonderkommando were operating on in their new assignment as barbers and dentists. Logically, the hauling of the some hundreds or thousands of cadavers to the cremation room by means of such a small freight elevator would again have taken a great deal of time and an eternity of ascending and descending.

d. When we arrive at the moment of the cremation of the cadavers, another unsolvable problem arises. In effect, if we consider that the time it takes to cremate one corpse is fifty minutes, which is the shortest time we have been able to find (see page 309), then it would have been possible to consume only fifteen cadavers in that length of time, which gives us a daily total of 432. So that to convert Höss's two thousand cadavers into ashes, for example, would have taken more than four days, assuming that the furnaces were functioning without interruption twenty-four hours a day. Thus the process of extermination of only a single batch of victims would have jammed the system for four days at a minimum. And thus becomes quite implausible the thesis maintained by the Auschwitz museum through its scale models (see Figure 14) that while the gas chamber was being cleared and the victims taken to the crematory furnaces, the next shift was being prepared in the disrobing room.

VIII. An Aberrant Gas Chamber

Finally let us linger over the supposed gas chamber proper.

As we have already pointed out, the official thesis has it that Leichenkeller 1 of crematoriums II and III was really a gas chamber used for homicide. Now let us see why we consider that the selection of this particular place for extermination by means of poison gas is a technical aberration.

a. We can not understand the reason why the Germans constructed underground gas chambers. It makes no sense. There is no motive for doing so. Quite the contrary: not having built them at ground level entailed a series of additional problems. In the first

place, the low temperature would make the evaporation of the hydrocyanic acid more difficult. In effect, even if the evaporation occurs at 0° centigrade, "HCN [hydrocyanic acid] evaporated more rapidly at a high temperature."[43] Why were the Germans stupidly going to construct an underground and therefore colder building? Why retard the evaporation of the HCN? Why make the extermination process slower? It is absurd. In the second place, if the Germans had built the gas chamber at ground level, they would have spared themselves the installation of the freight elevator, which necessarily even further delayed the hauling of the cadavers to the cremation room. A more rational arrangement would have placed the gas chamber at ground level, that is, at the level of the furnaces, so that the "traffic" between them and the gas chamber would have been enormously simplified. Thus, the concept of an underground gas chamber was not logical from the point of view of the extermination process either. On the other hand, this arrangement of the building would be perfectly logical if the German wished to utilize it as a mortuary, as indicated in the plans. Given the fact that the process of the cremation of cadavers was slow, a space, a "cold room," was designed for storing them up to the moment of incineration. This "cold room" served the purpose of retarding decomposition. The ventilation system which is shown in the plan of the cross section of Leichenkeller 1 would serve to eliminate the odors arising from putrefaction.[44] Thus, the thesis maintained by G. Wellers and other authors that the Germans employed a code language whose key has not yet been found and according to which:

Leichenkeller 1 = gas chamber

Leichenkeller 2 = disrobing room

is based solely on groundless speculation.

With regard to the temperature, G. Wellers maintains the following theory:

> In a room that is closed and airtight and also full of human beings, the temperature must have risen rapidly. The boiling temperature of hydrocyanic acid is 26° *[centigrade]*. Without the least doubt, under these conditions, the hydrocyanic acid passed into a gaseous state, and the various surfaces—the walls, the ceiling, the skin area of the bodies of those executed, their hair—reached or exceeded the boiling temperature of the hydrocyanic acid. Thus, a fairly powerful ventilator must have rapidly evacuated the hydrocyanic acid vapors, which did not condense on the warm surfaces.[45]

Wellers does not explain how the temperature could pass almost instantly from some degrees below zero—supposedly they continued to use the gas chamber even during the severe winters of Eastern Europe—to 26° centigrade above zero. Again, the air that was going to be used for ventilation came directly from the outside; so it was a

question of a current of cold air capable of causing condensation of the HCN and thus making its evacuation more difficult. But even accepting Wellers's allegation, the reason for construction of an underground chamber would still be unexplained. On this point the official thesis is confronted with an obstacle that in our judgment is insurmountable.

b. If the Germans had wished to install gas chambers for homicidal purposes, they would naturally have proceeded in accordance with scientific criteria, based on functional designs adapted to the end in view. In other words, they would have to have provided their gas chambers with a few minimum technical requisites. Let us see, by way of example, what the professionals in the field of fumigation by means of gas demand of their installations:

> Even the most toxic gases require a certain minimum period of exposure and concentration if they are to be lethal. Thus, any room devised to serve this objective regularly must be so constructed that airtightness is assured. The type of material used in its construction is of little importance, because it can be made impermeable by the application of coatings of chlorine rubber, bituminous, or plastic materials.
>
> A well-designed fumigation chamber, besides being airtight, must have an adequate system for vaporization of the fumigants and for ventilation, as well as a system of simple functioning that reduces technical manipulation to a minimum.[46]

Nothing similar to that was to be found in the supposed gas chambers of crematoriums II and III of Birkenau. Airtightness was nonexistent, particularly in the "wells" or openings through which presumably the gas was introduced.[47] Nor is there evidence of any lining or coating whatsoever. The various testimonies and the remains themselves indicate only bare concrete walls. Nor was there a vaporization system, the executioners resigning themselves to the primitive and awkward method reported by Höss and other witnesses. As for the ventilation, we have already seen that although Leichenkeller 1 had a system available for drawing out the air (*Entlüftungskanal*), the latter, placed in the lowest part of the building, would hardly have been able to eliminate the hydrocyanic acid vapors, first because the hodgepodge of cadavers would have obstructed the air exhaust vents; and in the second place because HCN is lighter than air and would have become concentrated in the upper part of the chamber.

G. Wellers claims that the existence of this *Entlüftungskanal* is one more indication proving that Leichenkeller 1 was a gas chamber:

> When you round out these facts with an attentive examination of the plans of the Leichenkeller Nos. 1 and 2 of crematoriums II (I) and III (II), you observe that cellar No. 1 is not so long as cellar No. 2 and, above all, that it is provided with a ventilation and air exhaust

> mechanism that is perfectly visible and noted in the vertical section, whereas the Leichenkeller No. 2 does not have any similar equipment.[48] (See Figure 15).

Wellers is mistaken on this last point. The report of the test engineer of the Topf company, manufacturer of the crematory furnaces, dated 29 January 1943, establishes:

> The delivery of the aeration and ventilation equipment of the mortuaries has been delayed due to a lack of available freight cars.[49]

Let it be emphasized that the technician uses the plural to refer to "the mortuaries," whereby he implies that both places were provided with ventilation installations. In the same sense, J.-C. Pressac affirms that Leichenkeller 2 also had a system of ventilation "by air intake" through pipes.[50] Thus, the existence of a ventilation conduit in Leichenkeller 1 does not prove it was a gas chamber used for killing people, since Leichenkeller 2, which is supposed to have been only a disrobing room, has one as well.

In short, it appears that the Germans had omitted even the most elementary components of a simple fumigation chamber in their attempt, supposedly scientific and well planned, to construct homicidal gas chambers.

* * * * *

Fumigation or disinfestation chambers are provided moreover with a mechanism that produces an air current in a closed circuit in order to accelerate and make more efficient the fulfillment of its task. Note how the technicians explain this question:

> In a simple chamber, the diffusion of the gas depends on the normal velocity of expansion. This slow process can be considerably *accelerated by means of the artificial movement or better circulation of the air* [emphasis in the original]. The most efficient method of circulation is to extract the gas on one side of the chamber by means of an airtight ventilator, leading it through a tube to the other side, where it is again pumped into the chamber. Circulation of the gas by this means *assures the most complete distribution within the chamber* [emphasis in the original]. When passing across a vaporizer incorporated in the circulatory system, the current of air will draw up and spread the fumigant. The efficiency of the gas will be increased by hooking up a hermetic heater that will gradually raise the temperature of the room.[51]

This system of circulation is demonstrably of great efficiency, as shown in Figure 15.

As we have repeatedly indicated, although Leichenkeller 1 had a ventilation-exhaust system, the system, so Höss declares, was set in operation *upon completion* of the "gassing" ("half an hour after sending in the gas, the door was opened and the ventilation equipment turned on"). There was therefore no circulatory system.

Half an hour after introduction of the *Zyklon*, the concentration of gas in the chamber would be very irregular (see Figure 15). This fact is difficult to reconcile, for example, with the "three minutes" that Wetzler indicates as the duration of the "gassing."

An objection will possibly be made, nevertheless, that the situation indicated in Figure 15 would only occur in the case of an ordinary fumigation or disinfestation. It is very probable that in a "gassing" of humans in a crowded room conditions might be different, but that does not prevent us from recognizing the utility of the circulatory system, inasmuch as in both cases—fumigation and "gassing"—it was a question of applying and distributing the gas as rapidly and uniformly as possible.

The most curious thing is that the fumigation chambers we have made reference to were *in the same concentration camps.*[52] Immediately our attention is drawn to the fact that fumigation and disinfestation chambers, sanitary and hygienic installations, were constructed in an "extermination camp"; and, above all, that the Germans learned nothing from them in constructing their supposed gas chambers for killing humans.

Perhaps it would be instructive to understand, if only superficially, an industrial fumigation or insect control installation such as that we reproduce in Figures 17 and 17a, in order to have a faint idea of what an establishment dedicated to the mass extermination of humans would have to have been, from a technical point of view. Alongside such an installation the crematoriums and the procedures supposedly used in Auschwitz are mere bungling.

c. The lethal agent employed, according to the official thesis, was an insecticide and fumigant known under the trade name of *Zyklon B* or *Zyklon*, which the manufacturer, the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Schädlingsbekämpfung m.b.H. (abbrev., DEGESCH), defines in the following manner:

> In *Zyklon*, 98%-99% pure liquid hydrocyanic acid is chemically stabilized and absorbed in a porous and inert material. It is available in small pieces (snippets) or in disks of wood pulp.[53]

The hydrocyanic acid evaporates slowly—depending upon ambient conditions such as humidity and temperature—from the porous base used as a carrier. This slowness operates to make the action of the insect control one of long duration, as indicated by the manufacturer:

> Exposure times may vary greatly, for example, from 2 to 72 hours. The different types of pests, small air leaks in dwellings, and unfavorable weather conditions, difficulties of penetration and other circumstances must be taken into account in determining the concentration and time of exposure.[54]

The application of *Zyklon* is a complex operation in that a team of several persons, technically trained, must distribute the product carefully according to the parasite to be destroyed and the volume of the premises. The operation must be carried out *within* the confines of the area undergoing disinfestation (see Figure 19). Nevertheless, under special conditions, such as clearing a ship's hold of rats, the *Zyklon* may be hurled from cover, without the necessity of entering the area personally (see Figure 20).[55]

* * * * *

One of the peculiarities of hydrocyanic acid is its high toxicity to humans. Miniscule quantities are sufficient to cause a person's death. The *Encyclopaedia Britannica*, for example, points out that "exposure to concentrations of 200-500 parts [of HCN] per 1,000,000 parts of air for 30 minutes is usually fatal."[56] Even Exterminationist authors admit that a dosage of one milligram per kilo of body weight "is the minimum dosage that causes death with certainty."[57] With some seventy milligrams, therefore, one could end the life of a person of seventy kilos. That means that theoretically at least it would be possible to "gas" two thousand people with scarcely 140 grams of hydrocyanic acid.

What was the dosage employed by the Germans in the gas chambers of crematoriums II and III? According to Höss, to "gas" fifteen hundred people, a minimum of seven one-kilo cans of *Zyklon B* were needed.[58] Bearing in mind that *Zyklon B* is composed of 98%-99% hydrocyanic acid, it is apparent that the employment of at least seven kilos assumes that a minimum of 6,860 grams of hydrocyanic acid was introduced into the chamber. [Editor's note: While the HCN accounted for a fraction of the net weight of the *Zyklon B* can, since it was absorbed in a stabilizer, normally the cans were labeled with, and thus designated by, the weight of the HCN ingredient alone.] If we accept that seventy milligrams are sufficient to cause the death of a person of average size, logic tells us that the fifteen hundred people in the gas chamber would have died on inhaling altogether no more than 105 grams. In other words, 98.47% of the lethal agent would still be in the gas chamber at the completion of the "gassing." The statements of Wellers then are inaccurate in reasoning that the concentration of hydrocyanic acid "must have decreased rapidly in concequence of the absorption of the vapors by the lungs of those executed,"[59] and that "the 'disinfector' on duty, skillful after a certain amount of experience, knew how to avoid 'wasting' the weapon of the crime."[60] Besides, it is not logical that the Germans should introduce an excessive quantity of *Zyklon B* when only the smallest fraction of the same amount would have achieved their objective. The quantity indicated by Höss would have had as a result that the gas chamber would be filled with

hydrocyanic acid precisely at the moment in which the victims had already died and the ventilation process was going to be started.

In any event we realize that adducing all these technical factors as proof is pointless if we accept that the Germans succeeded in cramming fifteen hundred, two thousand, or three thousand people into the approximately five hundred cubic meters of the gas chamber. Under those conditions the gas would have been unnecessary.

To put an end to this section, we do not wish to omit the contents of a letter of a professional toxicologist and judicial expert, Louis Truffert, directed to LICRA (International League Against Racism and Antisemitism) on the occasion of the trial which brought that organization into confrontation with Professor Faurisson.[61] Wellers claims that the toxicologist's letter confirmed the official thesis. Truffert stated among other things that *Zyklon B*

> rapidly releases vapors of hydrocyanic acid, without, however, achieving a considerable concentration in the atmosphere when that is maintained below the boiling point of the poison . . .
>
> That is why it does not seem to me at all impossible that the persons not provided with gas masks might without difficulty enter a gas chamber containing nude bodies whose temperature was likely still to exceed 26 degrees centigrade (therefore not capable of retaining the poison by absorption), however little it had been ventilated, even very slightly.[62]

Now let us consider some objections to Truffert's thesis. In the first place, if the *Zyklon* does not reach a "considerable concentration" below 26 degrees centigrade, then there is no explaining why the Germans constructed underground gas chambers, ensuring lower temperatures (see page 319). In the second place, and against Truffert's opinion, the manufacturer of *Zyklon* establishes standards that are much more strict with respect to ventilation:

> **Ventilation:**
>
> During this period gas masks must be worn. Ventilation takes place in the reverse direction to the application of the gas (gassing). All windows near the entrance are opened first, and later gradually those in the rest of the building. It is advisable to work only 10 to 15 minutes at a time and to make interruptions of half an hour as a precaution against skin poisoning.
>
> According to [Zyklon] concentration, outside temperature and climate conditions, ventilation should continue for at least ten hours. The duration also depends on the type of building, and the number, size and location of windows and other openings.[63]

The above text illustrates the exhaustive precautions that must be adopted when carrying out fumigation work with hydrocyanic acid. Although the strict instructions of the manufacturer refer to natural

ventilation by means of doors and windows, the conditions present in the supposed gas chamber and its ventilation system (entry of cold air capable of condensing the gas, ventilation openings at ground level, probably sealed off by the jumble of cadavers, and high concentration of hydrocyanic acid at the end of the "gassing") would hardly allow the entry of persons without gas masks to undertake the hard physical exertion of hauling cadavers after only a limited ventilation.

But there is more. On the occasion of the aforementioned litigation between LICRA and related organizations on one side, and Faurisson on the other, the latter visited the toxicologist, Truffert, showing him the plans and the scheme of operation of the supposed gas chamber of Leichenkeller 1. In Faurisson's words, this was the toxicologist's reaction:

> He immediately exclaimed about the impossibility of a homicidal gassing operation in such conditions. It is that which he wanted to confirm for us in a letter dated 3 April 1981, a copy of which was to be received by the LICRA. Here is the passage that directly concerns the question: "Nevertheless, the observation that I made, [in my response to LICRA], concerning the possibility of going into a room containing bodies poisoned with hydrocyanic acid without a gas mask, involves the case of a gas chamber at ground level, opening to the fresh air, and it is evident that important reservations must be made in the case of underground installations. Such a situation would require a very large ventilation apparatus and draconian precautions in order to avoid pollution likely to be caused by accidents."[64]

In consequence, we believe that the report of toxicologist L. Truffert can not be considered proof of the existence of a homicide gas chamber either.

IX. Recapitulation

And now, finally, let us summarize the conclusions we have reached in this brief study.

a. The situation of the Birkenau camp, and of crematoriums II and III within the camp, was not suitable for carrying out a massive extermination of human beings under conditions of even the most elementary secrecy.

b. Crematoriums II and III, as revealed to us in the plans, were simple installations designed for the cremation of cadavers, with all the auxiliary facilities typical of such installations: underground mortuaries to retard decomposition, dissection and autopsy rooms, coal bunkers, cremation rooms, etc. To this date there is no document known which indicates that the crematoriums were anything other than what the plans show. This fact has compelled the partisans of "orthodoxy" to invent the theory of the "secret code"

whereby the SS, using commonplace terms, presumably concealed the reality of the gas chambers.

c. Such documents as are available to support the official thesis offer no proof of the criminal character of these installations. The mention of "gas-tight doors" does not necessarily prove the existence of gas chambers used for homicide. Not to mention that the authenticity of some of these documents is at the very least dubious.

d. The studies and reports of the specialists do not seem conclusive either. The report of Truffert, the toxicologist, suffers from one grave deficiency: he was not acquainted with the physical situation of the gas chambers. When Professor Faurisson revealed it to him, Truffert reconsidered his position. The "specialist's report" of Cracow is limited to recording the existence of residues of HCN on some objects which are said to have come from the crematoriums. We have already demonstrated a clear contradiction on this last point.

e. The testimonies of the survivors (internees and former members of the SS) are mutually irreconcilable, some of them even internally so. For the most part they are absurd and do not square with the physical configuration of the actual sites.

f. The aerial photographs taken during the war do not corroborate the official doctrine, but quite the contrary. There are no signs of smoke from the chimneys, nor masses of people around the crematoriums. These graphic documents, analyzed at the time by Allied photography experts, were not used in the postwar trials. That is the best proof that it was not possible to detect in them anything remotely like a mass extermination. And we emphasize that these photographs were taken at a time when the "Holocaust" of Auschwitz was theoretically at its culmination point.

g. The "industrial" process that would have been necessary in the extermination and incineration to accord with the physical configuration of the premises and with the testimonies is manifestly irrational. Moreover, neither the disrobing room, nor the gas chamber, nor the freight elevator, nor the capacity of the crematory furnaces was adapted to a slaughter of the proportions claimed by the official thesis.

h. The contradiction in the case of the gas chamber is particularly patent. It implies that the Germans renounced the employment of a technology in which they were world leaders (fumigation and disinfestation gas chambers) in order to "engineer" instead a botched mess in which the process of annihilation by gas would have been slow, cumbersome, and fatal for the executioners themselves.

In view of all the foregoing, our conclusion is obvious: *The thesis of the extermination of great masses of human beings by means of*

poison gas in the gas chambers of crematoriums II and III of Birkenau is untenable.

The official thesis, moreover, combines all the requisites of a historical hoax.

Appendix I. The Surprising Thesis of J.-C. Pressac

J.-C. Pressac, the aforementioned French Exterminationist author, after a series of investigations in Auschwitz, has arrived at the conclusion that all the crematoriums of Birkenau were conceived originally without any criminal purpose, but later "adapted" with the intent of carrying out a massive extermination:

> Initially crematorium II—and consequently III—was not planned in 1941 for mass homicide. It was converted for this purpose later. This surprising conclusion derives from a study of the initial plans, correspondence, contemporary photos, and the testimonies of the survivors.[1]

And again:

> Crematoriums IV and V were not conceived as criminal instruments but were converted to that end.[2]

Pressac's position, which implies a Copernican revolution in the Exterminationist doctrine, is difficult to reconcile with the memoirs of Höss, until now considered to be the principal proof of the existence of the gas chambers. Let us have a look at what Höss, the former commander of Auschwitz, states in his supposed memoirs:

> In the summer of 1941, when [Himmler] personally gave me the order to prepare in Auschwitz an installation designed for mass extermination and charged me with its operation, I could not imagine the extent of this undertaking or the effect it would produce.[3]

And:

> A few days after [the meeting with Himmler] I sent to the Reichsführer by special messenger a detailed plan of the location and an exact description of the projected installations. I never received an answer nor a decision in the matter. Later, Eichmann told me in passing that Himmler was in agreement.[4]

Pressac, however, maintains that crematoriums II and III of Birkenau were designed later than October of 1941.[5] Therefore, and according to the thesis of the French author, the Germans were designing their crematoria as hygienic installations devoid of any criminal character *after Höss received the order to prepare installations for mass extermination.* The sequence of events—if we follow Pressac's logic in relation with the official doctrine—would have to be as follows:

1. In the summer of 1941 Höss received the order to prepare one or several extermination installations and went so far as to prepare a plan, which Himmler approved.

2. Later, despite Himmler's instructions, Höss designed several large-capacity crematoriums of a sanitary and hygienic character, with no criminal features.

3. Finally, at some unknown date, Höss, with criminal intent, converted several installations conceived for sanitary use, already under construction or perhaps completed, into extermination facilities.

In our judgment, the Exterminationist thesis at this point finds itself in a blind alley. If, with Pressac, we analyze the Birkenau crematoriums in depth, we come to the conclusion that their original conception is incompatible with the role they are given as wholesale human slaughterhouses.[6] But if we admit the commonplace character of the crematoriums—at least in their conception—we then enter into contradiction with the supposed memoirs of Höss, which until now have been considered the cornerstone of the Auschwitz legend.

As Professor Faurisson has said, with J.-C. Pressac's analysis, the legend of the gas chambers "has entered its death throes."

Appendix II.
Marginal Notes to an Aerial Photograph of Auschwitz

Figures 8 and 8a have an extraordinary historical value. The photograph was taken by the U.S. Air Force on 25 August 1944 and then went completely unnoticed, without anything abnormal being found in it by the photo intrepretation specialists of the time. It was not until 1979, as a result of the telecast of the *Holocaust* series, that two specialists of the CIA, D.A. Brugioni and R.G. Poirier, rescued it from the dusty archives, interpreting it and commenting on it according to the official dogma.[1] In spite of their Exterminationist good intentions, the authors had to acknowledge that

> even though the camp survivors remember a cloud of smoke and flames that issued continuously from the chimneys of the crematory furnaces and that was visible in a radius of some kilometers, the photographs we have studied do not offer any positive proof.[2]

G. Wellers comments on this grave disagreement with the official thesis as follows:

> In short, the photos do not confirm the statements according to which the crematories and burial pits were in constant activity every day.
>
> I am willing to believe that it is more a matter of an expression then a daily reality: when we say: "I'm dying of hunger," we are not really at the brink of death.[3]

The confession of Wellers is important insofar as it serves to acknowledge that it is not necessary to take the testimony of the supposed witnesses literally. It is an important concession. In order

to give his argument more force, the French author remarks that on the date the photograph was taken, no convoys of Jews arrived at Auschwitz. According to Wellers,

> this explains perfectly the absence, on the days indicated, of exceptional activity around the crematoria and of clouds of smoke issuing from the chimneys or from the incineration pits.[4]

As we have stated, the photograph which we reproduce is dated 25 August 1944, a date on which, according to the *Kalendarium* of Auschwitz, no convoy arrived at Birkenau. But the previous day, according to the same source, yielded the arrival of five convoys destined for extermination. And it is absolutely inconceivable that several thousands of people could be exterminated and incinerated in less than 24 hours without leaving the slightest trace. In the photograph, which, according to the position of the shadows, was taken in the early hours of the morning, there is not the slightest trace of smoke, open fires, or movement of crowds of people or vehicles around the crematoriums to be detected. That the five convoys slated for extermination should have vanished into thin air in less that 24 hours without leaving any traces is one of the typical physical impossibilities that characterize the Auschwitz legend.

With regard to the photograph itself, we call attention to several aspects we find interesting. The gate to crematorium II is open, which is surprising in an installation supposedly ultrasecret. The photo interpretation specialists of 1979 explain that it was due to the fact that a group of prisoners was making its way in that direction in order to be exterminated.[5] Wellers, who knows that according to the *Kalendarium* no convoys arrived that day, has to correct the analysts of the CIA:

> We have to think, with some reservations, that on the 25th of August it was a question of a transfer of a group of detainees from Birkenau to the Neuengamme camp.[6]

Therefore in the opposite direction.

On the other hand, no one has explained the function of the garden which was situated on the grounds of the crematorium. In good Exterminationist logic, it must have formed part of the *attrezzo* [stage effects] arranged on the scene by the Germans to confuse their victims about their fatal destiny.

The rectangular hole located in the upper part of the enclosure of crematorium II is characterized by the CIA analysts, inclined towards any interpretation of a sinister kind, as a "possible cremation pit," without noting the absurdity of digging a pit to burn cadavers when the logical thing would be to burn them on a pyre.

In short, the interpretation given by the analysts of 1979 to this photograph prove the legend's power of suggestion: Brugioni and Poirier are "seeing" the extermination process on a day when,

according to the official sources themselves, there was no such extermination.

Notes

Main Text:

1. These research scholars are known today as *Revisionists*. A good study of the development of Historical Revisionism can be found in the work of the Italian author Carlo Mattogno, *Il mito dello sterminio ebraico*, Monfalcone, Sentinella d'Italia, 1985, pp. 42-55 [Translated in this issue of *The Journal of Historical Review*].
2. Martin Gilbert, *Auschwitz and the Allies*, London, Arrow, 1984.
3. Danuta Czech, "Kalendarium der Ereignisse im Konzentrationslager Auschwitz-Birkenau," *Hefte von Auschwitz*, Nos. 2 (1959), 3 (1960), 4 (1961), 6 (1962), 7 (1964), 8 (1964). The aforementioned C. Mattogno points out that the *Kalendarium* enjoys a great reputation among Establishment historians, but in reality, rather than an historical scientific work, it is essentially a propagandistic endeavor whose principal aim is to give sanction, through a vast pseudoscientific apparatus, to the myth of the 'death factory' of Auschwitz" (C. Mattogno, *Wellers e i 'gasati' di Auschwitz*, Parma, La Sfinge, n.d., p. 6). Mattogno, in the same work, gives six examples of falsehoods, inventions, falsification of sources and utilization of spurious sources in the *Kalendarium* (pp. 6-9).
4. There is no unanimity with respect to the nomenclature of the crematoriums of Birkenau. The Central Construction Office of the Waffen-SS and Police, Auschwitz (*Zentralbauleitung der Waffen-SS und Polizei Auschwitz*) employed a double nomenclature, giving these two crematoriums the numbers I and II as well as II and III respectively. In our work we have chosen the latter designation as being that generally accepted at the present time (cf., for example, J.-C. Pressac, "Les 'Krematorien' IV et V de Birkenau et leurs chambres à gaz," *Le Monde Juif*, No. 107, 1982, p. 97).
5. Wilhelm Stäglich, *Le Mythe d'Auschwitz*, Paris, La Vieille Taupe, 1986, p. 9.
6. Gerald Reitlinger, *The Final Solution*, p. 105, quoted by W. Stäglich, op. cit., p. 434, n. 108.
7. Testimony of Mark Klein reproduced in Leon Poliakov and Josef Wulf, *El Tercer Reich y los judios*, Barcelona, Seix Barral, 1960, p. 216.
8. Documento NO-4463. The Americans, in the celebrated postwar trials by the Nuremberg Military Tribunal (NMT), classified evidential documents according to an alphanumeric code. This document corresponds to the "concentration camps" trial (US versus Pohl, *Concentration Camps Case*).
9. Robert Faurisson, *Mémoire en défense contre ceux qui m'accusent de falsifier l'Histoire*, Paris, La Vieille Taupe, 1980, p. 155 (facsimile reproduction of the letter of K. Smolen, director of the Auschwitz, to the author).

10. J.-C. Pressac, loc. cit., p. 114.
11. R. Faurisson, op. cit., p. 153.
12. Ibid.
13. Georges Wellers, *Les chambres à gaz ont existé*, n.p., Gallimard, 1981, p. 90; AAVV, *Les chambres à gaz secret d'État*, Paris, Les Editions de Minuit, 1984, p. 198-199.
14. Arthur Butz, *The Hoax of the Twentieth Century*, Costa Mesa, Institute for Historical Review, 1980, pp. 120-121-; R. Faurisson, op. cit., p. 85. Professor Faurisson has modified his initial position, indicating that it is not possible to determine the purpose of the Vergasungskeller inasmuch as we do not have a detailed plan of all the constituent parts of Crematorium II (personal letter from the author 17 February 1987). However, the same author has also hazarded the hypothesis that the Vergasungskeller was the place where the products employed in fumigation were stored. In France he points out, this material must be stored "in a dry basement, well ventilated and locked" ("Gas zur Vergasung," paper of Professor Faurisson, 1985?).
15. J.-C. Pressac, on the other hand, maintains that a report of the test engineer of the manufacturing company which made the furnaces, "clarifies directly" that the Vergasungskeller was Leichenkeller 1 (loc. cit., p. 107, n. 10]. However, this report confines itself to indicating that it had still not been possible to dismantle the framework from the ceiling of Leichenkeller 2 (AAVV, op. cit., p. 199), so that the only thing that this text "clarifies directly" is that the Leichenkeller spoken of in document NO-4473 was Leichenkeller 2. The Vergasungskeller could have been located in any other underground space of the crematorium, not necessarily in Leichenkeller 1 (let us remember that there was also a Leichenkeller 3).
16. Personal letter from the author (19 September 1986).
17. AAVV, op. cit., p. 76. There are two carbon copies of the original document preserved in the Auschwitz museum. In one of them there is mention of "three gastight towers" (*drei gasdichte Türme*); the word "towers" (*Türme*) is repeated in the the document a little farther on. In the other copy, the word "towers" had been corrected to "doors" (*Türen*), leaving the second one, on the other hand, intact. Who the "corrector" was is not known. Reproduction of the documents: *Colloque de l'Ecole des hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales, L'Allemagne nazie et le génocide Juif*, n.p., Gallimard-Le Seuil, 1985, J.-C. Pressac, "Etude et Réalisation des Krematorien IV et V d'Auschwitz-Birkenau," pp. 571-572.
18. *Hefte von Auschwitz*, 4, 1961, p. 110. Cited by C. Mattogno, *Auschwitz: un caso di plagio*, Parma, La Sfinge, s.f., p. 12.
19. W. Stäglich, op. cit., p. 72. He cites as source the "Central Construction Office of Hamburg," which alludes to the crematory furnace of Oejendorf.
20. C. Mattogno, *Auschwitz: un caso di plagio*, p. 13.
21. R. Faurisson, *Réponse à Pierre Vidal-Naquet*, Paris, La Vieille Taupe, 1982, p. 79.

22. L.A. Rollins, "Azriel Eisenberg Presents the Greatest Sob Story Ever Told (with a Cast of Millions)," *The Journal of Historical Review*, Winter 1985-1986, p. 485, vol. 6, No. 4.
23. *Gran Enciclopedia del Mundo*, Bilbao, Durvan, 1966, article "Incineration," volume 10, p. 852. In this case, a cadaver leaves from "two to three kilos of white mineral ashes."
24. W. Stäglich, op. cit., p. 73
25. Protection was also necessary against high explosive and incendiary bombs. British historian David Irving has made clear that the principal cause of death in the Allied air raids on the German cities was the emanation of poison gases, carbon monoxide above all, produced by fires, to the extent that the Germans, on several occasions, performed autopies on cadavers, suspecting the the Allied had used poison gas. (D. Irving, *La destruccion de Dresde*, Madrid, Uriarte, n.d., pp. 43, 64 and 243).
26. M. Gilbert points out that the United State Air Force, by mistake, dropped a number of bombs on Birkenau. One of them killed thirty civilian workers (M. Gilbert, op. cit., p. 315). Let us point out in passing the difficulty of keeping secret the mass killings supposedly carried out in Birkenau, since it is admitted that civilian workers moved around within the area of the "extermination camp."
27. G. Wellers, op. cit., pp. 205-208. As incredible as it may seem, specialist reports *have never been made on the buildings which supposedly served as gas chambers.* For the various postwar tribunals it has been enough to recall article 21 of the statutes of the International Military Tribunal of 1945 to obviate any investigation of the physical reality of the gas chambers. Article 21 establishes:

    The Tribunal shall not require proof of facts of common knowledge.

28. Serge Thion, *Vérité historique ou vérité politique?*, Paris, La Vieille Taupe, 1980, pp. 314-317.
29. We are indebted for this information to the Italian investigator, Carlo Mattogno, to whom, moreover, nothing indicates that these spots are openings.
30. Witness H. Tauber, for example, speaks of "the little shafts of the four openings through which the gas was thrown into the chamber" (AAVV, *Les chambres à gaz secret d'Etat*, p. 208). J.-C. Pressac mentions "the little chimneys which stuck up from the roof of the gas chamber about 40-50 centimeters" (*L'Album d'Auschwitz*, n. p., Seuil, 1983, p. 212).
31. J.-C. Pressac, "Les 'Krematorien' IV et V de Birkenau et leurs chambres à gaz," p. 127.
32. G. Wellers, op. cit., pp. 109-116.
33. With regard to the memoirs of R. Höss, commander of Auschwitz, see the critique of Paul Rassinier (*El drama de los judíos europeos*), Barcelona, Acervo, 1976, pp. 53-63), R. Faurisson (*Mémoire en défense*, pp. 157-164; very enlightening also is his work "Comment les britanniques ont obtenu les aveux de Rudolf Höss, commandant d'Auschwitz," *Annales d'histoire révisionniste*, No. 1, spring 1987, pp.

137-152), W. Stäglich (op. cit., pp. 272-298) and, above all, C. Mattogno (*Auschwitz: le "confessioni" di Höss*, Parma, n.d., La Sfinge).

34. G. Wellers, op. cit., pp. 109-111.
35. G. Wellers, op. cit., pp. 111-112.
36. G. Wellers, op. cit., p. 113.
37. AAVV, *Les chambres à gaz secret d'Etat*, p. 198.
38. W. Stäglich, op. cit., p. 219.
39. G. Wellers, op. cit., pp. 114-115.
40. AAVV, *Les chambres à gaz secret d'Etat*, p. 208. Chapter VII ("Auschwitz") in this work written by G. Wellers.
41. G. Wellers, op. cit., p. 129.
42. Compare with the procedure followed in removing a cadaver from the gas chamber in some American prisons: "The doctor and two assistants must enter the chamber wearing gas masks, rubber apron, rubber gloves; the doctor shakes the head of hair of the dead person in order to eliminate as far as possible the molecules of hydrocyanic acid . . . ; the two assistants must wash the body with a stream [of water]" (S. Thion, op. cit., p. 307).
44. This interpretation seems to be upheld even by a notorious Exterminationist like J.-C. Pressac, who states that large ventilated basements had been provided in crematoriums II and III, "necessitated by an increasing mortality rate and the delay of the several days that were likely to elapse between the death and the cremation" (*L'album d'Auschwitz*, p. 212). In the same sense, "Les 'Krematorien' IV et V et leurs . . . ," p. 108. An important contradiction derives, in our judgment, from this fact. Pressac claims that crematoriums II and III were conceived initially without any criminal purpose (cf. Appendix I), being converted later into human slaughterhouses. Following the reasoning of the French author, one arrives at the absurd conclusion that these crematoriums needed mortuaries when they had to attend only to the usual natural death rate of the camp, and that, on the other hand, they did not need them when they had to contend with mountains of cadavers of the "exterminated."
45. G. Wellers, op. cit., p. 134.
46. DEGESCH, *Fumigation Chambers for Pest Control*, Frankfurt, n.d., p. 8.

    With regard to the installation and functioning of gas chambers for the execution of men condemned to death in some American prisons, see S. Thion, op. cit., pp. 301-309 and the newspaper *The Spotlight*, 24 September 1979 (reprint), p. 13.
47. "Above the gas chamber rose up the little shafts of the four openings through which the gas was thrown into the chamber. These openings were closed by a slab of concrete fitted with two wooden handles." Deposition of H. Tauber, member of the Sonderkommando assigned in crematorium II, before the examining magistrate of the Tribunal of Cracow on 24 May 1945 (AAVV, *Les chambres à gaz secret d'Etat*, p. 208.

48. G. Wellers, op. cit., p. 90.
49. AAVV, *Les chambres à gaz secret d'Etat*, p. 199.
50. J.-C. Pressac, "Les 'Krematorien' IV et V de Birkenau et leurs . . .," p. 128. In another work, Pressac is still more explicit, indicating that "it was possible to kill with gas (*gazer*) in both mortuaries since both were equipped with ventilation." (*L'Album d'Auschwitz*, p. 214).
51. DEGESCH, *Fumigation Chambers for Pest Control*, p. 8.
52. Friedrich P. Berg, "The German Delousing Chambers," *The Journal of Historical Review*, vol. 7, no. 1, Spring 1986, pp. 73-94. Document NO-18 reproduces the plan of one of these chambers.
53. DEGESCH, *Zyklon for Pest Control*, p. 11. Cf. Figure 18.
54. DEGESCH, *Zyklon for Pest Control*, p. 17.
55. In this case exceptional precautions must be taken: "Where the fumigation is restricted to the holds and stores of grain, no one is allowed to stay on board the ship until two hours have passed after the reopening of the last space fumigated. Access to the deck and the areas not subjected to fumigation may be permitted only after the chemical test has proven that the gas did not penetrate into the unfumigated parts of the ship." (*Zyklon for Pest Control*, p. 23).
56. *Encyclopaedia Britannica*, n.p., William Benton, 1970, volume 11, p. 941. Two hundred parts per million are equivalent to scarcely 240 milligrams per cubic meter.
57. AAVV, *Les chambres à gaz secret d'Etat*, p. 258.
58. Documents NI-034 and NI-036. Cited by C. Mattogno, *Auschwitz: le "confessioni" di Höss*, p. 37. The argument expounded below is based on the data from this work.
59. G. Wellers, op. cit., p. 135.
60. G. Wellers, op. cit., p. 136.
61. Professor Faurisson considered the story in the memoirs of Höss, to the effect that the members of the Sonderkommando could proceed with the hauling out of the cadavers from the gas chamber *immediately* after the "gassing" without being provided with gas masks, physically impossible (R. Faurisson, *Mémoire en défense contre . . .*, pp. 157-164; S. Thion, op. cit., pp. 179-180).
62. G. Wellers, op. cit., p. 210.
63. DEGESCH, *Zyklon for Pest Control*, p. 21.
64. R. Faurisson, *Résponse à Pierre Vidal-Naquet*, p. 39.

Appendix I

1. *L'Album d'Auschwitz*, p. 212.
2. J.-C. Pressac, "Les 'Krematorien' IV et V de Birkenau et leurs . . .," p. 126.
3. Rudolf Hoess [Höss], *Yo, comandante de Auschwitz*, Barcelona, Muchnik, 1979, p. 145.
4. R. Hoess [Höss], op. cit., p. 192.
5. *L'album d'Auschwitz*, p. 212.

6. In studying the extermination process in crematoriums IV and V, Pressac employs expressions like "industrially the running of the operations is aberrant" (Les 'Krematorien' IV et V de Brikenau et leurs . . .," p. 126).

Appendix II

1. Dino A. Brugioni and Robert G. Poirier, "Une Analyse rétrospective du complexe d'extermination 'Auschwitz-Birkenau,'" *Le Monde Juif*, No. 97, January-March 1980, p. 2. The authors acknowledge having based their commentaries on the works of Kraus and Kulka, N. Levin, and "the official investigations of the Polish government."
2. D.A. Brugioni and R. G. Poirier, loc. cit., p. 15.
3. G. Wellers, op. cit., p. 127.
4. Ibidem.
5. D.A. Brugioni and R.G. Poirier, loc. cit., pp. 8-9.
6. G. Wellers, op. cit., p. 128.

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AAVV, *Nationalsozialistische Massentötungen durch Giftgas*, Eugen Kogon, Hermann Langbein and Adalbert Rückerl, Frankfurt/Main, Fischer Verlag, 1983 (French translation by Henry Rollet, *Les chambres à gaz secret d'Etat*, Paris, Les Editions de Minuit, 1984).

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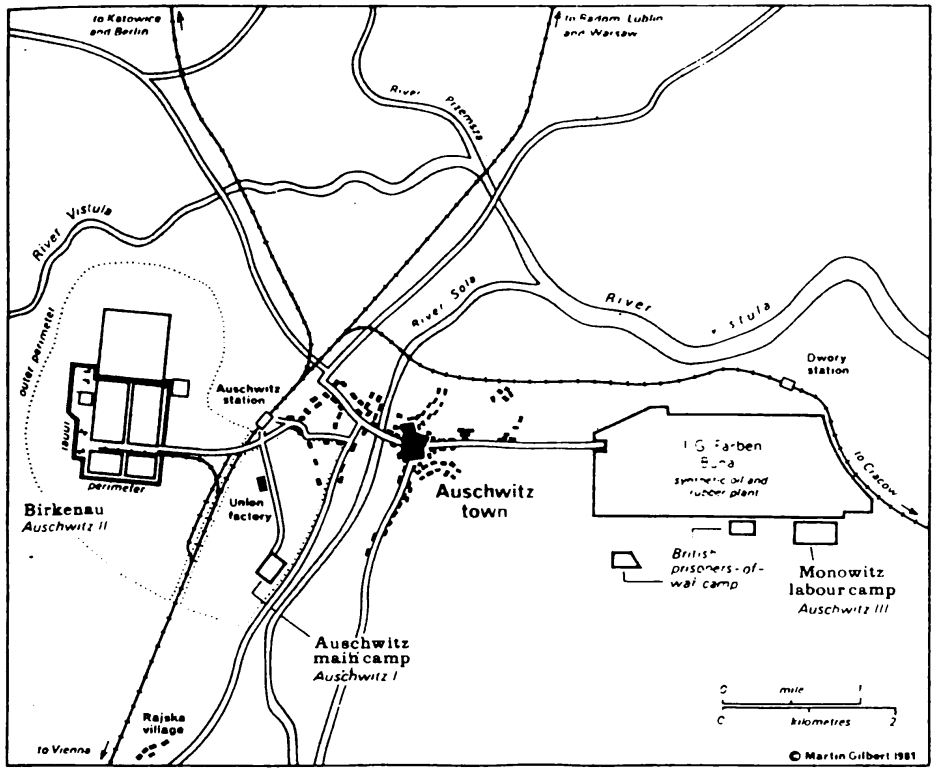
Figure 1: Plan of the Auschwitz region.
(from M. Gilbert, *Auschwitz and the Allies*)



e 2:
of Birkenau
hwitz II).
G. Wellers,
mbres à gaz ont existé)

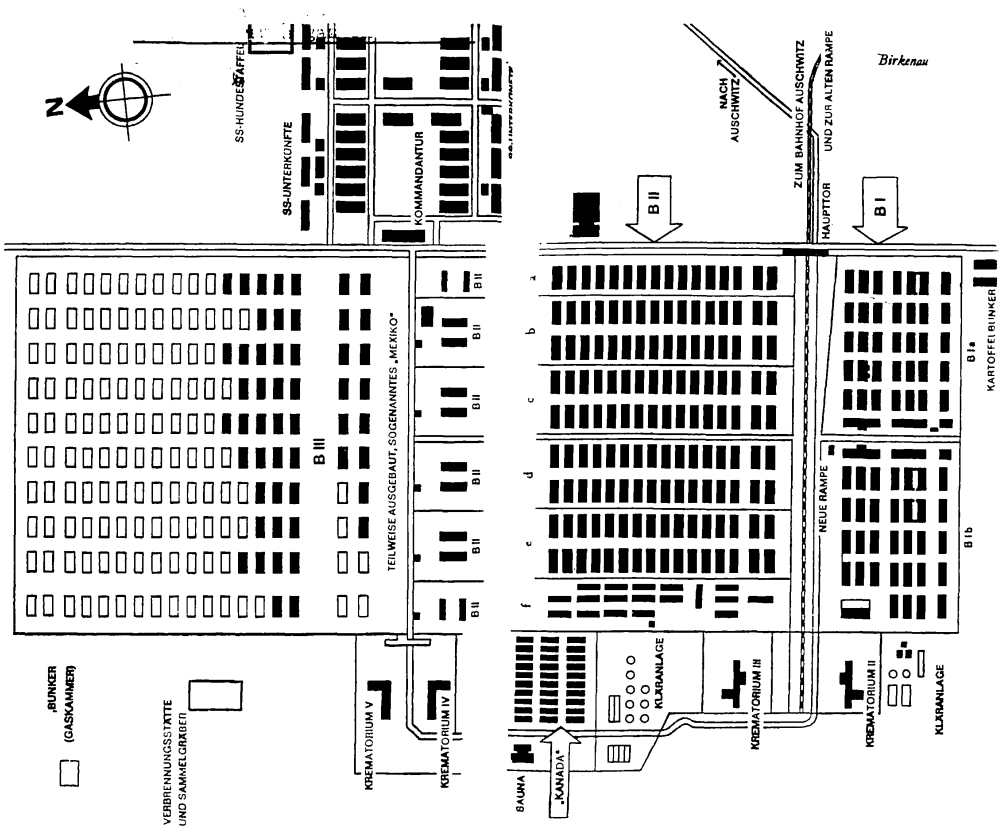


Figure 3:
Arrival of a convoy at the Birkenau ramp.
(from Casaril, *L'Album d'Auschwitz*)

Figure 4: Women on the Birkenau ramp. Crematorium III is in the background.

(from Casaril, *L'Album d'Auschwitz*)

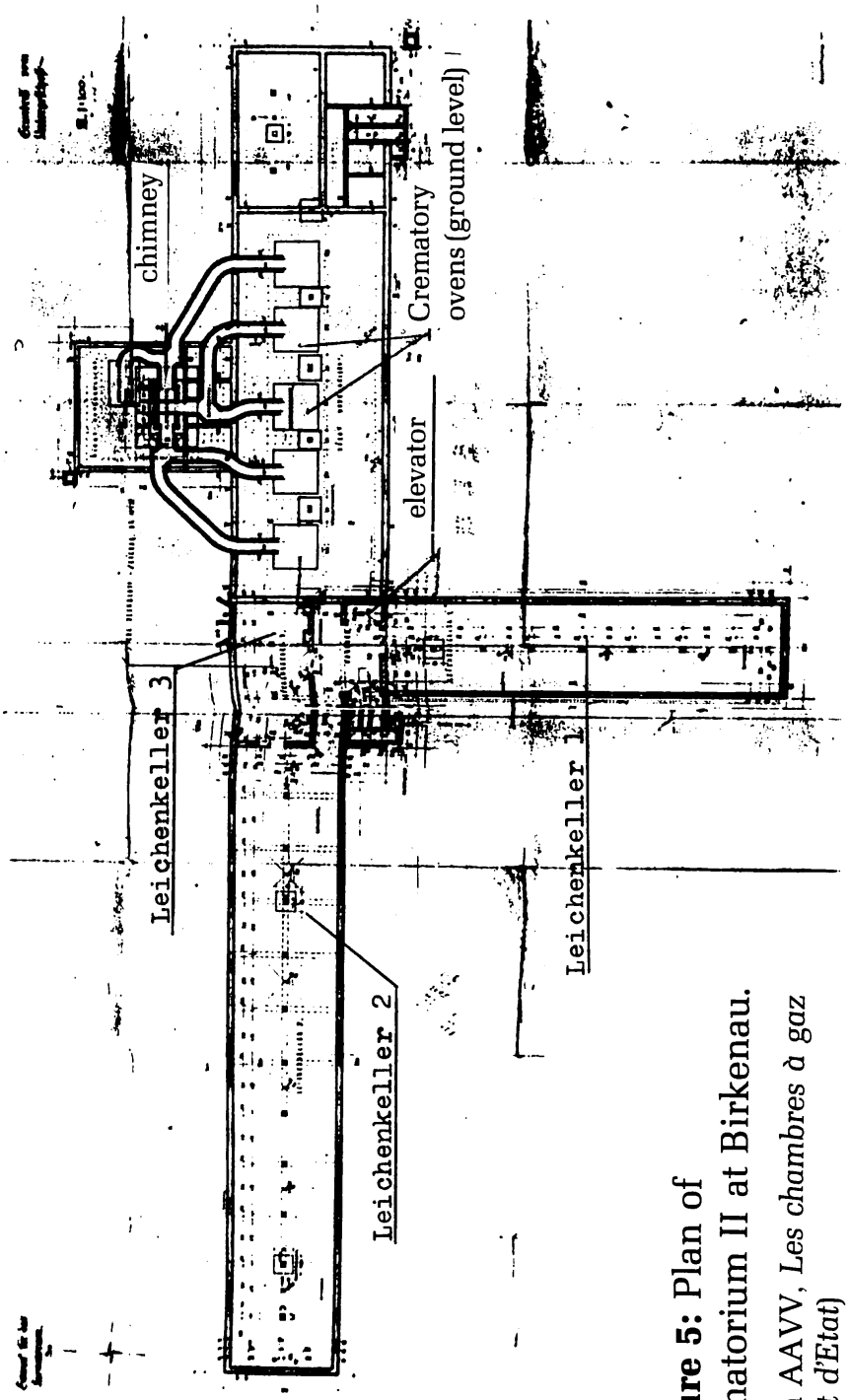


Figure 5: Plan of crematorium II at Birkenau.
(from AAVV, *Les chambres à gaz secret d'Etat*)

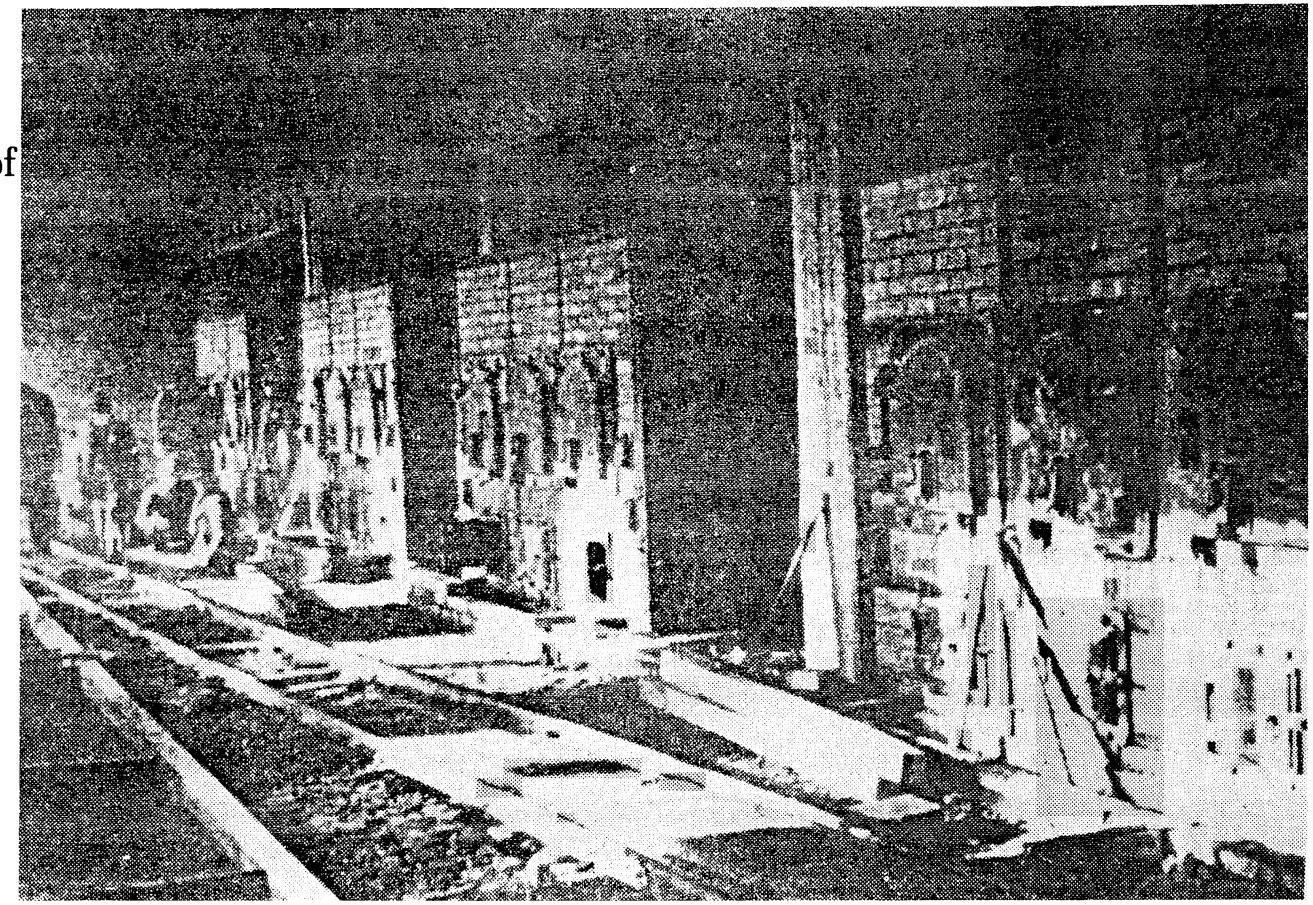
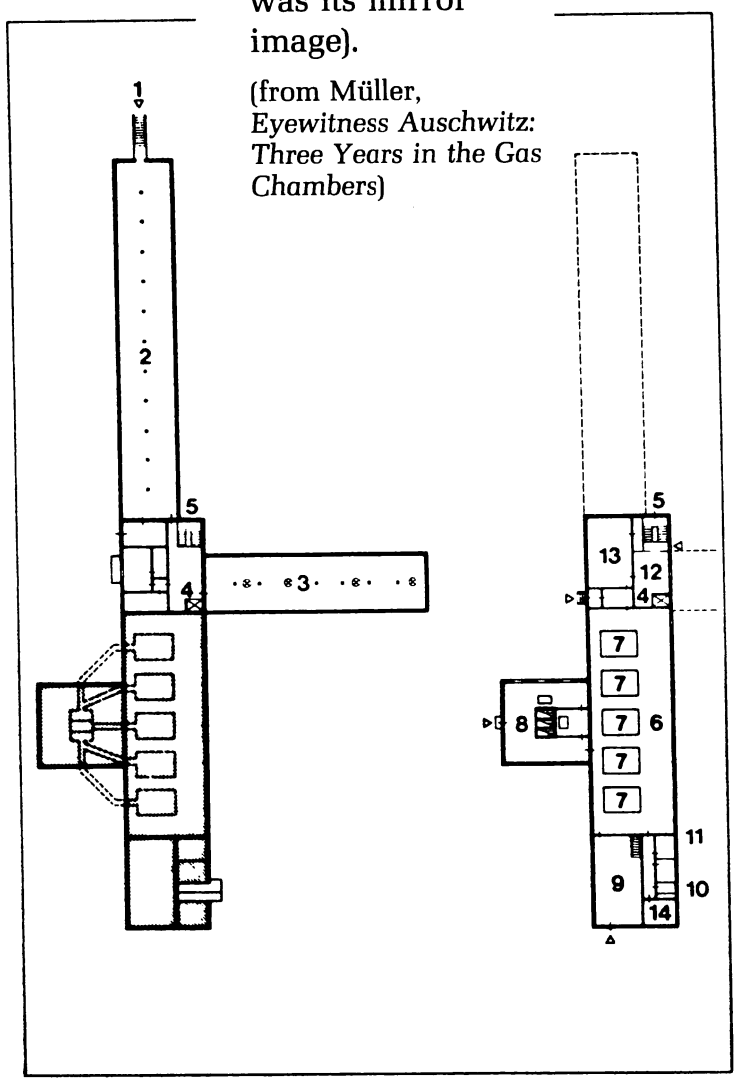


Figure 6:
Crematory room of crematorium II or III (while under construction).
(from *KL Auschwitz*)

Figure 7: Plan of crematorium III (crematorium II was its mirror image).

(from Müller, *Eyewitness Auschwitz: Three Years in the Gas Chambers*)



1 Stairs to changing room; 2 Changing room; 3 Gas chamber; ■ concrete pillar; ⊗ gas inlet; 4 Lift for corpses; 5 Chute for remains of corpses; 6 Incineration room; 7 Ovens, each with 3 chambers; 8 Chimney; 9 Coke store; 10 Washroom WC; 11 *Kommandoführer*'s office; 12 Execution room; 13 Room where gold fillings melted down in crematorium 2, dissecting room; 14 In crematorium 3 quarters of those who melted down gold fillings

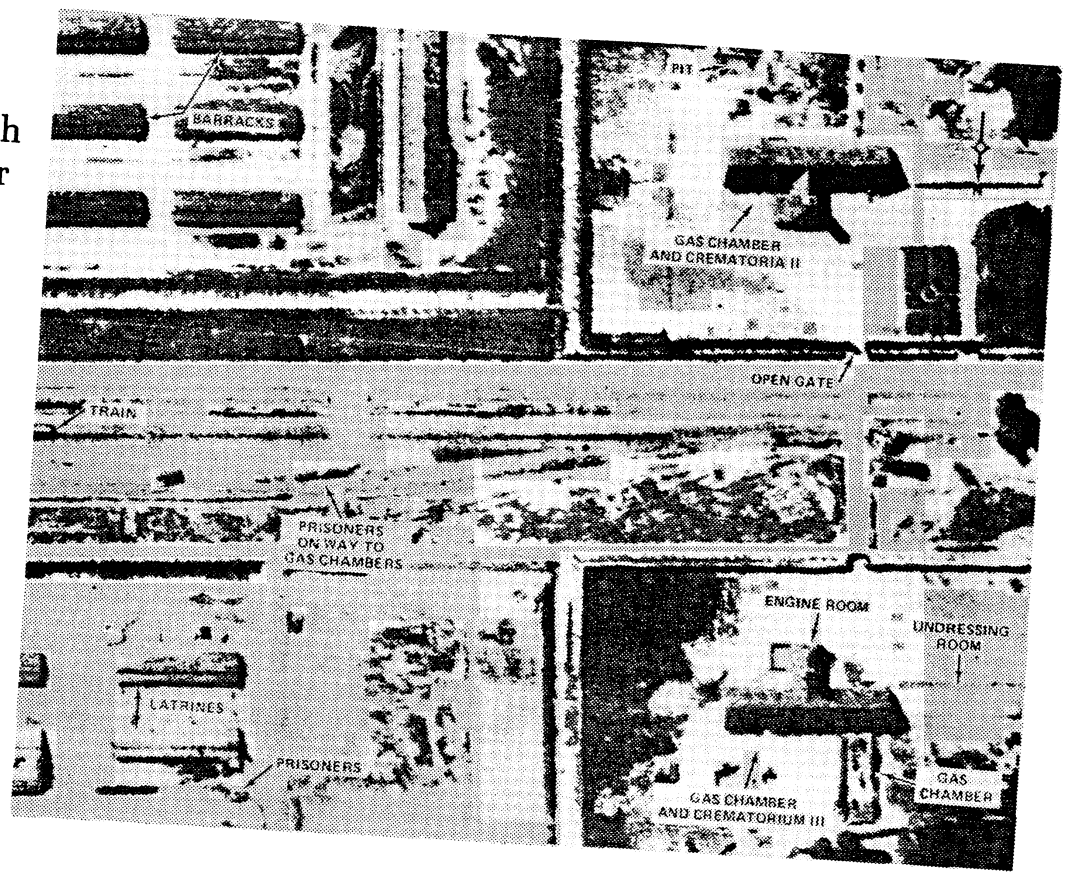
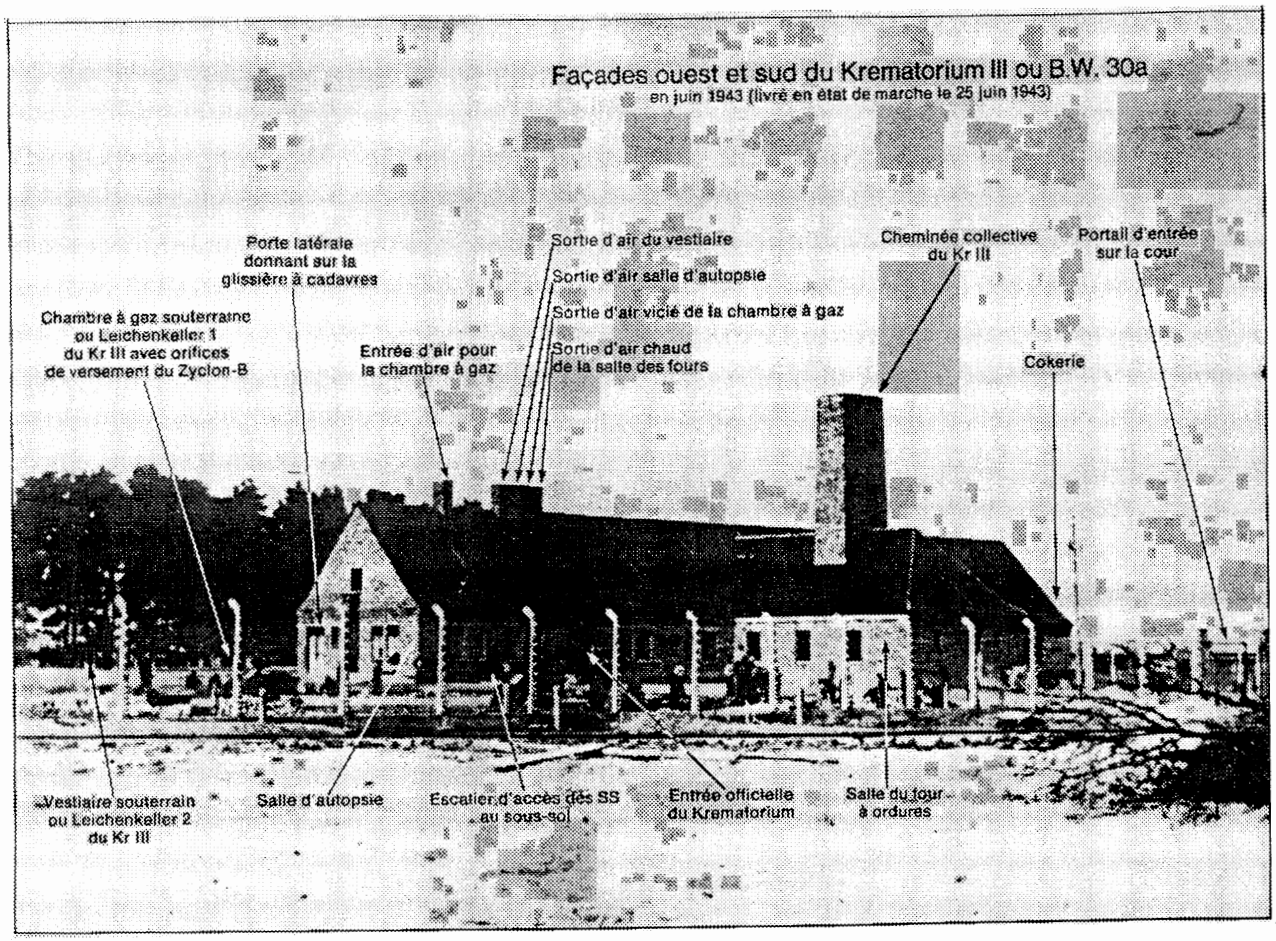


Figure 8: Aerial photograph
aken by the U.S. Army Air
Force on August 25, 1944.
rom Brugioni and Poirier, *The*
olocaust Revisited)

Figure 8a: Enlargement of the preceding photograph (Figure 8), showing details of crematorium II. (from Brugioni and Poirier, *The Holocaust Revisited*)

Figure 9:
South and west facades of crematorium III.

(from Casaril, *L'Album d'Auschwitz*)


Façades ouest et sud du Krematorium III ou B.W. 30a
en juin 1943 (livré en état de marche le 25 juin 1943)
Porte latérale donnant sur la glissière à cadavres
Sortie d'air du vestiaire
Sortie d'air salle d'autopsie
Sortie d'air vicié de la chambre à gaz
Sortie d'air chaud de la salle des fours
Cheminée collective du Kr III
Portail d'entrée sur la cour
Chambre à gaz souterraine ou Leichenkeller 1 du Kr III avec orifices de versement du Zyclon-B
Entrée d'air pour la chambre à gaz
Cokerie
Vestiaire souterrain ou Leichenkeller 2 du Kr III
Salle d'autopsie
Escalier d'accès des SS au sous-sol
Entrée officielle du Krematorium
Salle du four à ordures

29. Januar 1943

Bftgb.Nr.:22250/43/Bi/L.

Betr.: Krematorium II. Bauzustand.
Bezug: Fernschreiben des H-WVHA Nr. 2648 vom 28.1.43.
Anlg.: 1 Prüfbericht

An
Amtsgruppenchef C,
H-Brigadeführer und Generalmajor
der Waffen-H Dr. Ing. Kammler,
Berlin-Lichterfelde-West
Unter den Eichen 126-135

Das Krematorium II wurde unter Einsatz aller verfügbaren Kräfte trotz unsagbarer Schwierigkeiten und Frostwetter bei Tag- und Nachbetrieb bis auf bauliche Kleinigkeiten fertiggestellt. Die Öfen wurden im Beisein des Herr Oberingenieur Prüfer der ausführenden Firma, Firma Topf u Söhne, Erfurt, angefeuert und funtionieren tadellos. Die Eisenbetondecke des Leichenkellers konnte infolge Frosteinwirkung noch nicht ausgeschalt werden. Die ist jedoch unbedeutend, da der Vergasungskeller hierfür benützt werden kann.

Die Firma Topf u. Söhne konnte infolge Waggonsperre die Be- und Entlüftungsanlage nicht wie von der Zentralbauleitung gefordert rechtzeitig anliefern. Nach Eintreffen der Be- und Entlüftungsanlage wird jedoch mit dem Einbau sofort begonnen, sodass voraussichtlich am 20.2.43 die Anlage vollständig betriebsfertig ist.

Ein Bericht des Prüfingenieurs der Firma Topf u. Söhne, Erfurt, wird beigelegt.

Der Leiter der Zentralbauleitung
der Waffen-H und Polizei Auschwitz

H-Hauptsturmführer

[Bischoff]

Verteiler:
1 H-Ustuf Janisch u. Kirschneck
1 Registratur (Akt Krematorium)

F.d.R.d.A.:
H-Ustuf.(F)

Figure 10:
Nuremberg document NO-4473

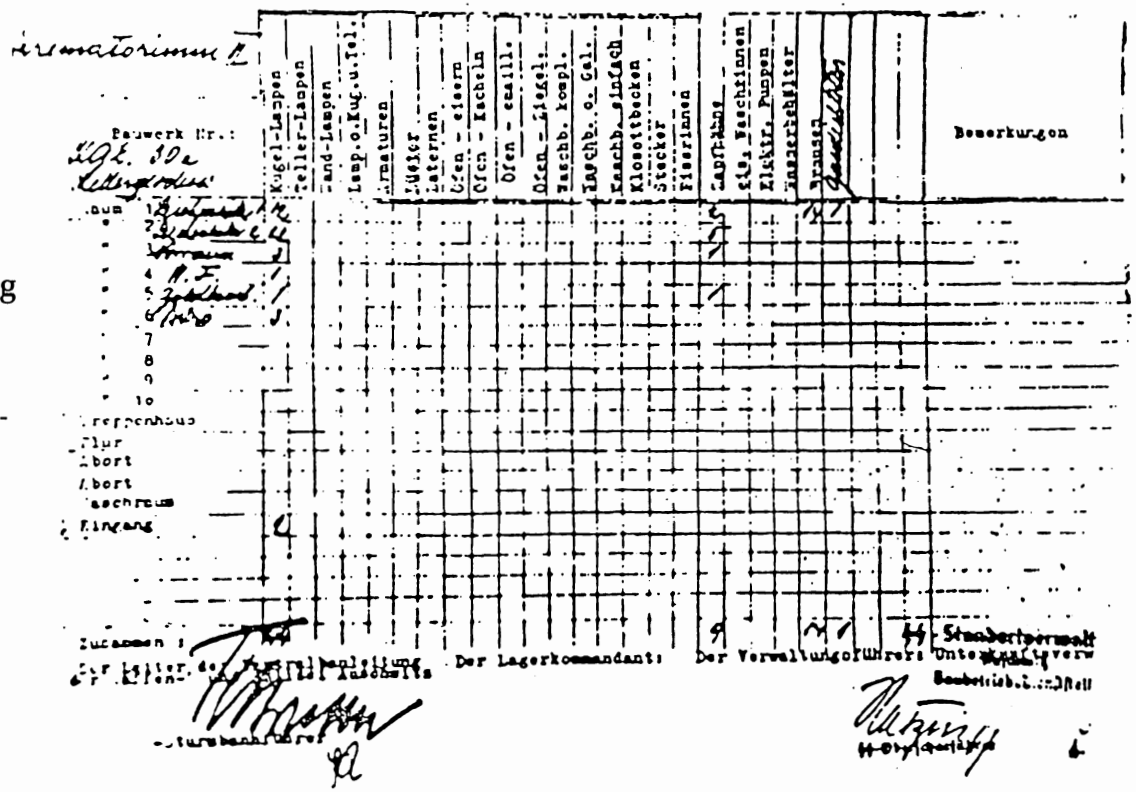


Figure 11:
The "proof of proofs," according to Pressac and Klarsfeld.

(from *VSD* (*Vendredi-Samedi-Dimanche*)

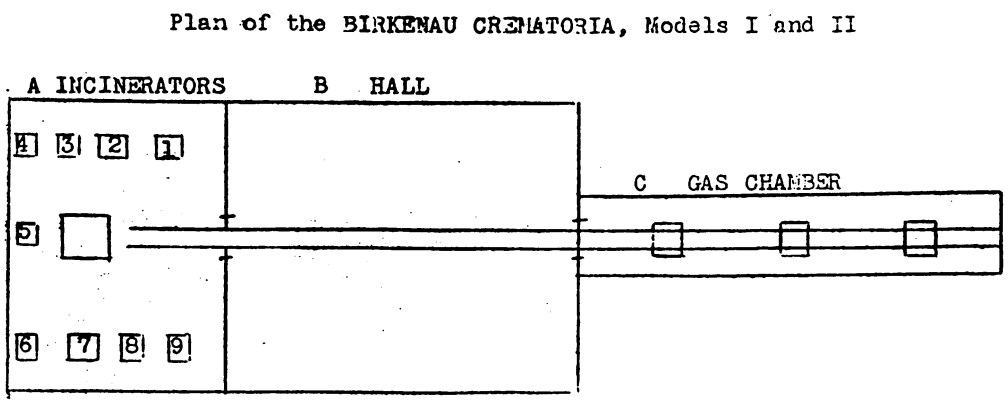


Figure 12: Plan of crematorium II and III of Birkenau, according to Wetzler. (from the U.S. National Archives, Washington, D.C. Document OSS-C.I.D. XL8883)

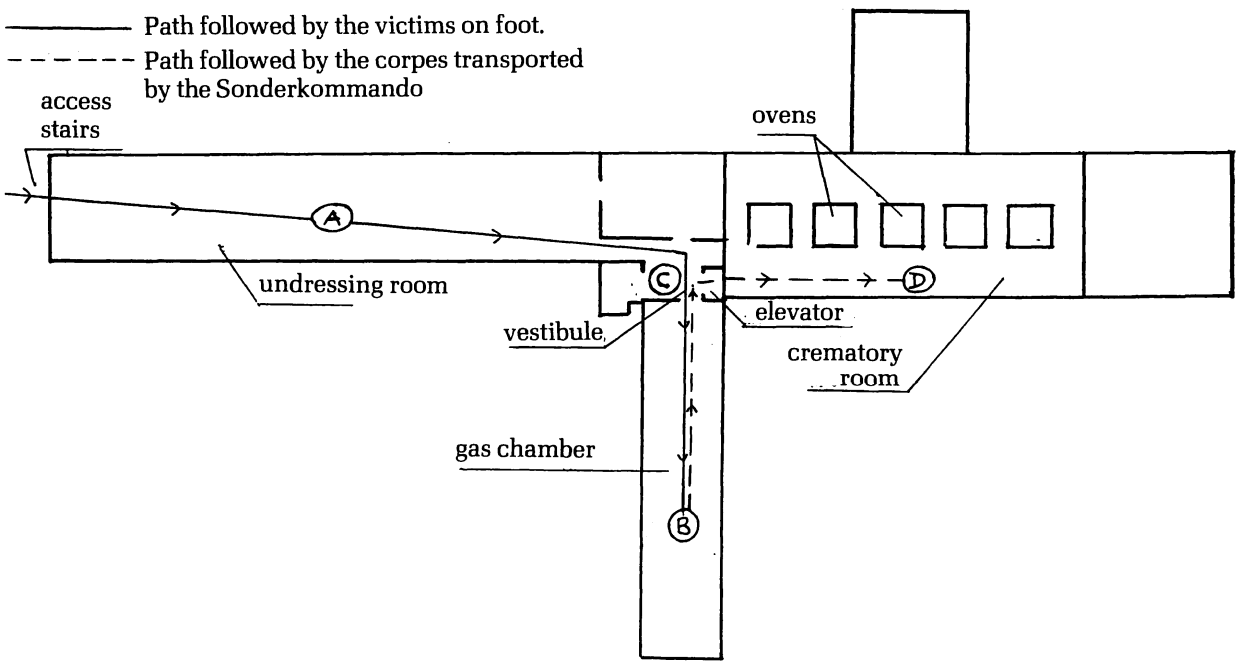


Figure 13: Route followed by the victims, according to the official thesis.
(drawing by the author)

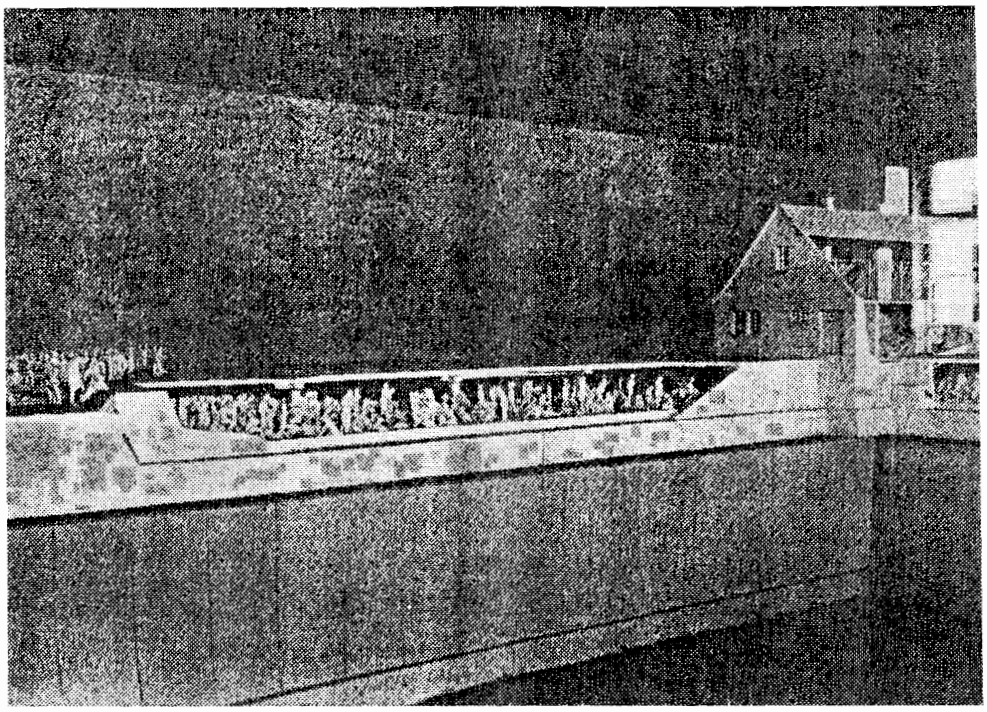
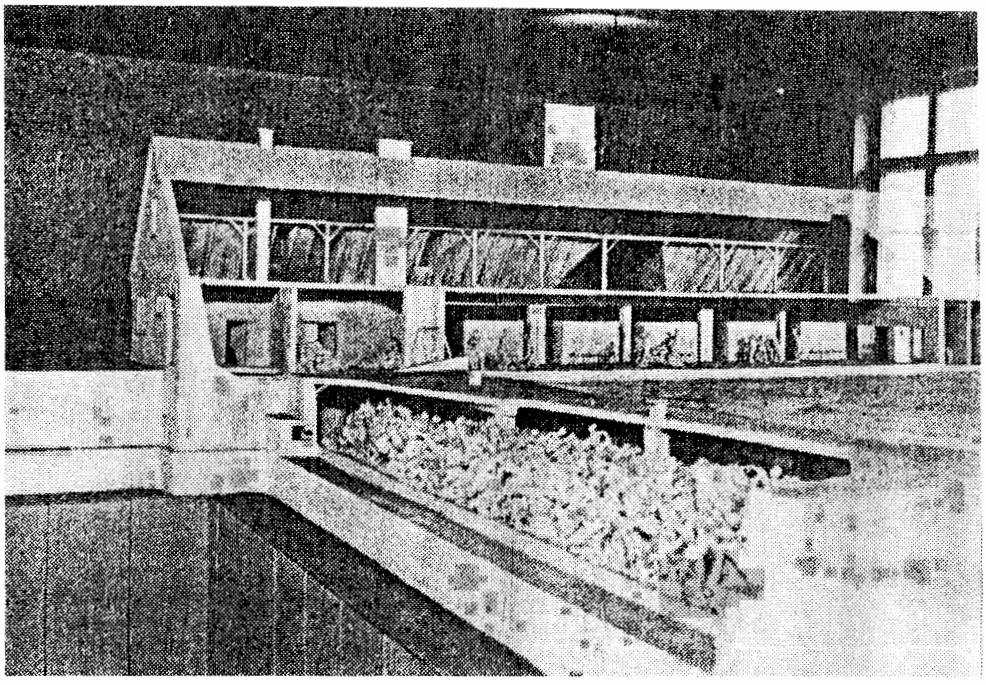


Figure 14: Reconstruction of the "extermination process" according to the Auschwitz Museum.

(from Stäglich, *The Auschwitz Myth*)



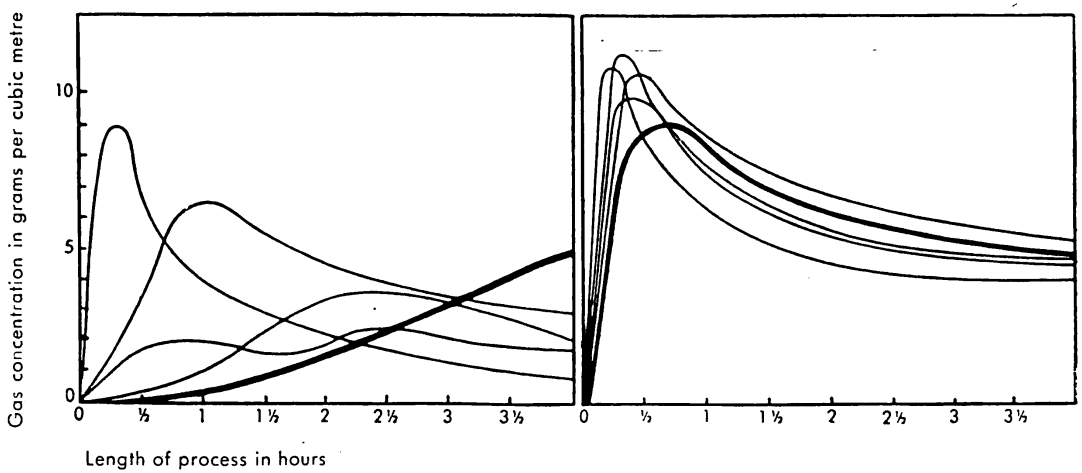


Figure 15: Diagram illustrating the effectiveness of the circulatory system.

(from DEGESCH, *Fumigation Chambers for Pest Control*)

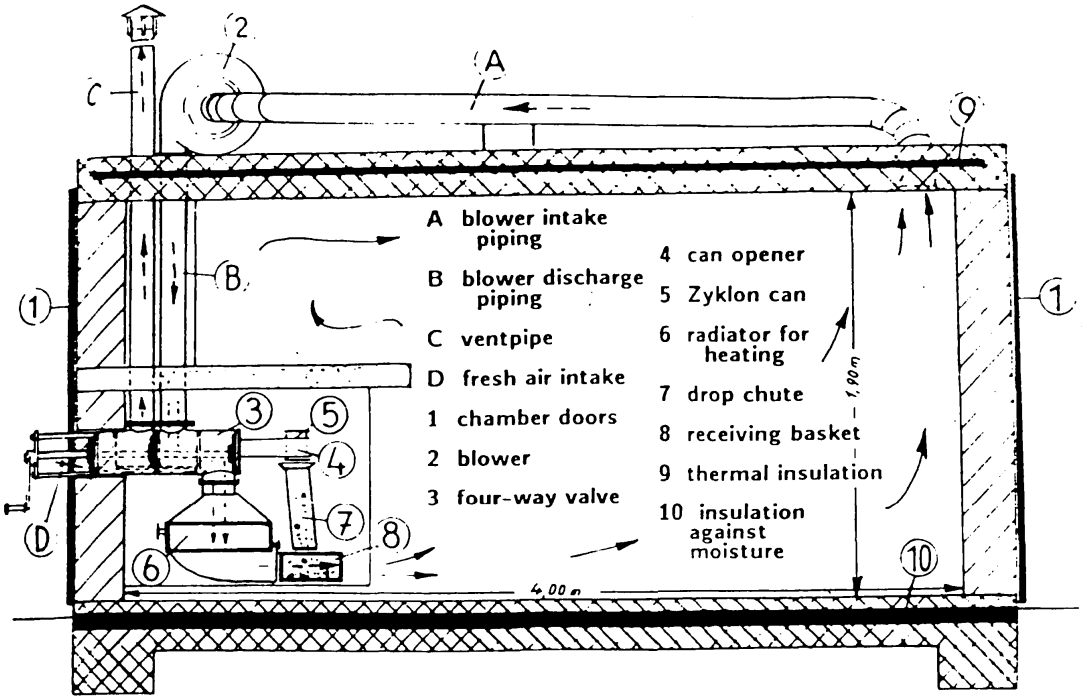


Figure 16:
Elevation drawing of a delousing chamber with a DEGESCH circulatory system.

(from F.P. Berg, "The German Delousing Chambers," *The Journal of Historical Review*)

Figure 17:
Plan of a vacuum fumigation plant, Casablanca (Morocco).

(from DEGESCH,
Fumigation Chambers for Pest Control)

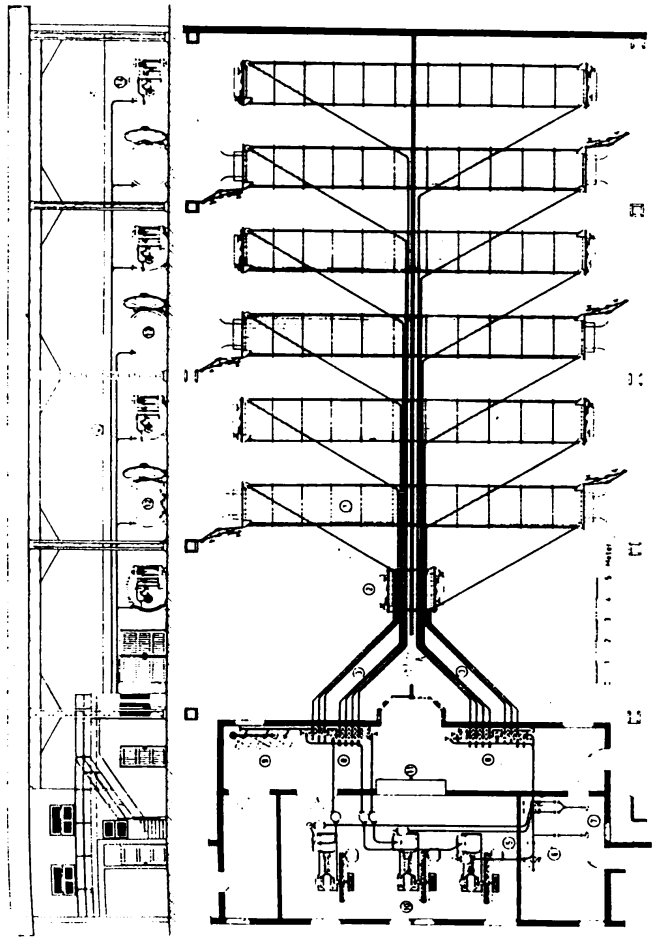


Figure 17a:
Vacuum fumigation plant, Casablanca (Morocco).
Control room with control panel and control valves.
(from DEGESCH, *Fumigation Chambers for Pest Control*)

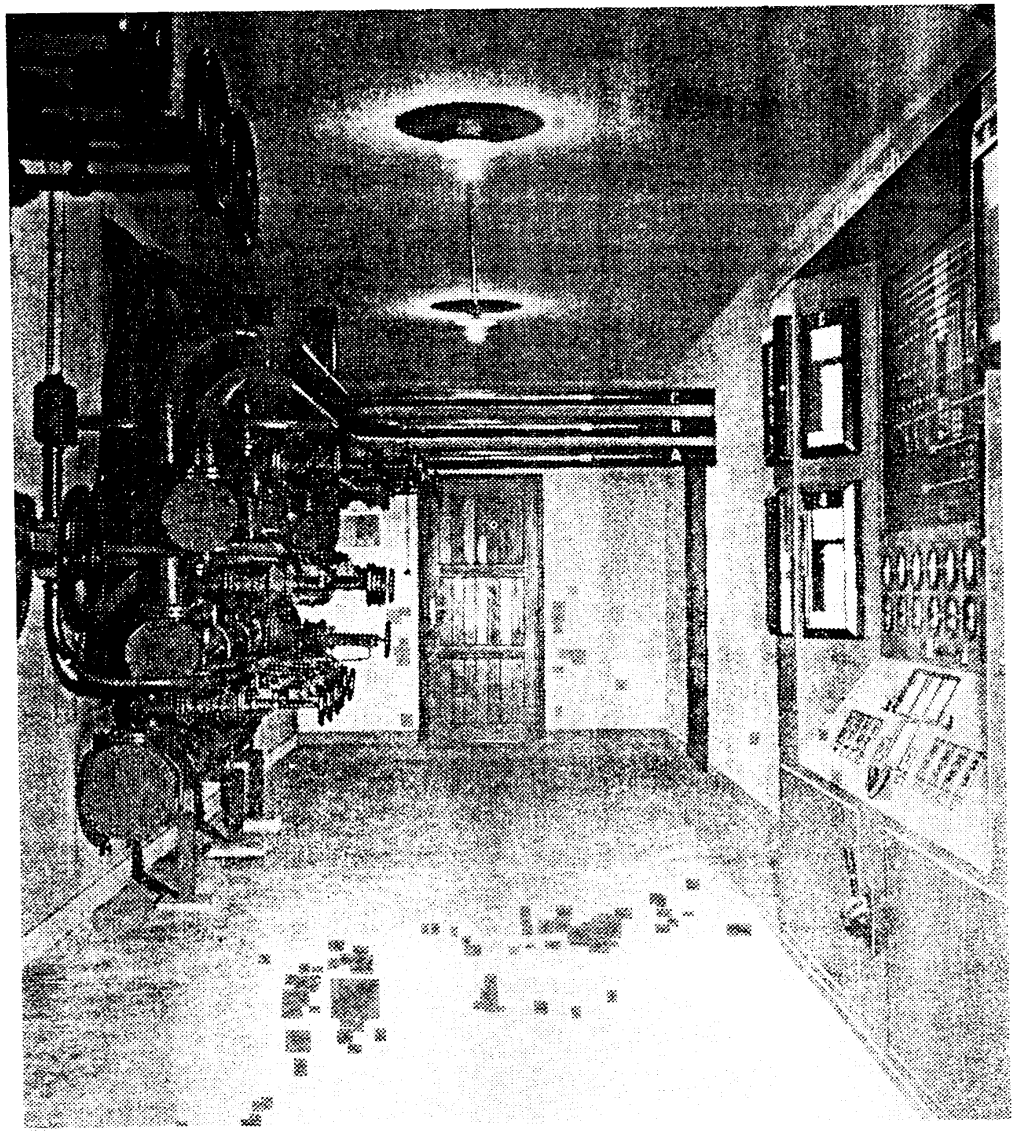


Figure 18:
Zyklon containers and their contents: snippets and wooden discs impregnated with hydrogen cyanide.
(from DEGESCH, *Zyklon for Pest Control*)

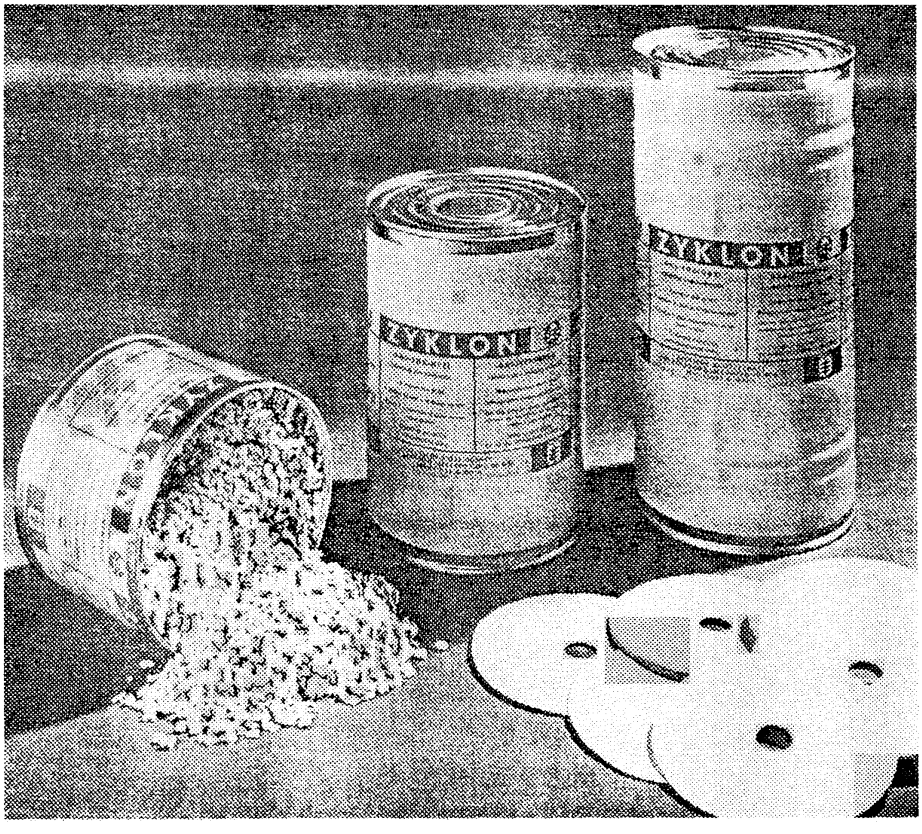
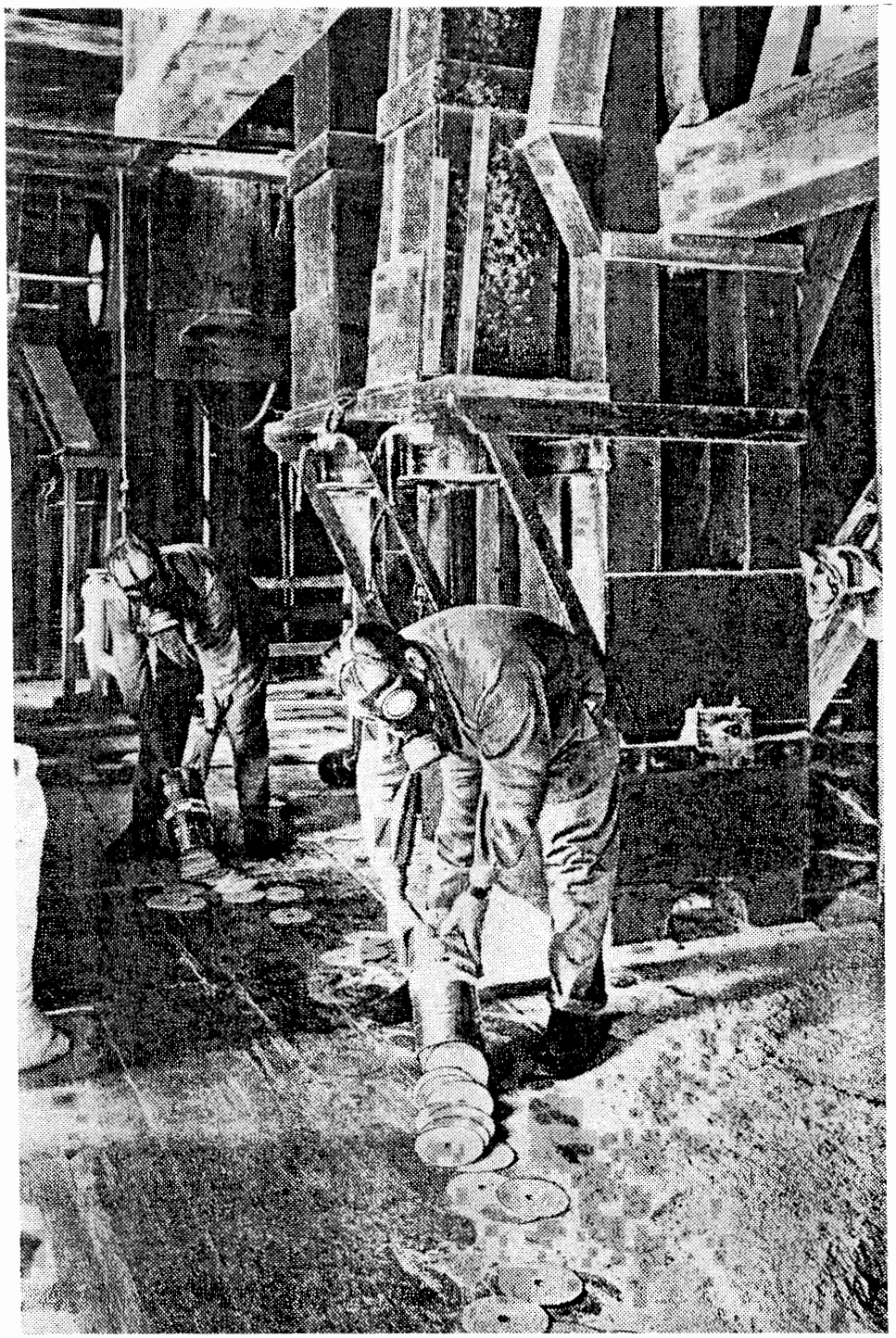


Figure 19:
Fumigation with *Zyklon*
(from DEGESCH, *Zyklon for Pest Control*)



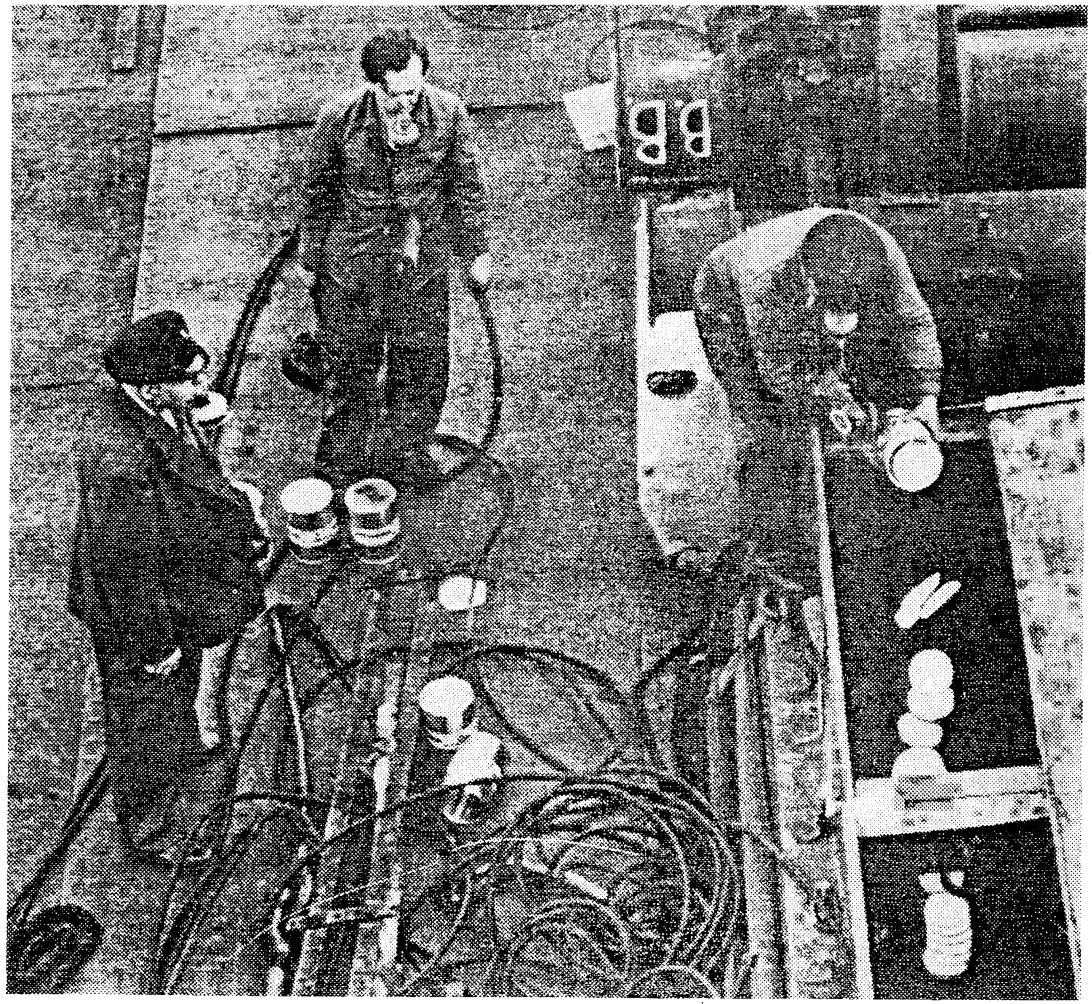


Figure 20: Fumigation of a ship's hold with *Zyklon.*

(from DEGESCH, *Zyklon for Pest Control*)

Book Reviews

THE SECOND OLDEST PROFESSION: SPIES AND SPYING IN THE TWENTIETH CENTURY by Phillip Knightley. New York: Penguin Books edition, 1988; xii, 436 pp., photographs and index, $7.95, ISBN 0-14-010655-3.

Reviewed by James J. Martin

People over-impressed by spies and espionage are fond of quoting the observation attributed to Napoleon that a spy "in the right place" is worth 20,000 soldiers on the battlefield. At Waterloo, Napoleon could have used 100,000 more armed men and five fewer spies. Even earlier, when he faced Imperial Russia as an adversary, Napoleon did not get anywhere near his money's worth from spies, if anything at all, and they had the loveliest of situations for espionage agents: the Czar's intelligence service transmitted its communications in the language of the enemy, the French. Nevertheless, the catastrophe of 1812 was not averted. Apparently the failure to conquer Russia was another case of the spies not being in the "right place."

These reflections have been inspired by contemplating some of the implications of Phillip Knightley's new book on the occupation or enterprise of intelligence-gathering, though he has chosen to concentrate on the history of this endeavor for mainly the last 75 years. Those whose first encounter with the author was his book *The First Casualty* (1975), which dealt so engagingly and informatively with the phenomenon we call the war correspondent, will find here the same genial style and feeling for narrative, the same sure competence in mustering his sources, and the same no-nonsense direct and unevasive judgments and conclusions.

We have long been entertained by a vast number of fictional yarns and allegedly "real" accounts about spies and intelligence operations in which the activity is enhanced by clever devices into an occupation of the highest exciting romantic nature. And its operatives invariably emerge as heroes and role models of the most stunning sort, the fictional ones maybe more glamorous than the "real life" figures; Ian Fleming's James Bond, whose novels and films have entertained many millions, is probably the most memorable of a stream of such creations.

But a large number of the real life spies reported by Knightley are a sordid and commonplace lot, a surprisingly large number of them not very bright, few imaginative, and in the main surprisingly unproductive. If their supply of useful secret information about

whomever they are supposed to report on were compared to the output of farmers, and was as crucial to human survival, the race would have died of starvation long ago. And what is specially depressing to those brought up on the glamor of film characters such as Double-O Seven and Matt Helm, as well as several other attractive sleuths in espionage in many war thrillers, the people Knightley parades by us lack most of the drama and mystery, let alone the good looks, one gets to expect of such actors. Even Mata Hari really comes down to a kind of humdrum-looking lass one can see many superior to on almost any afternoon at the shopping mall. If most of the characters populating *The Second Oldest Profession* had been recruited for what we call "show-biz," one might think many suitable to play extras in the comedies of Ben Turpin or W.C. Fields, or as inept bit players in the short-subjects buffooneries of Clark & McCullough.

It appears to this reviewer that Knightley has two main points to make: 1) spies and spying have been gravely exaggerated over the last 75 years and the total record of their production has been extremely modest, if indeed measurable, in many instances, and 2) there is an inverse relationship between production and effectiveness on the one hand, and growth in an almost exponential manner in terms of money, personnel, budgets and spread of activity on the other, especially in the last 40 years, and increasingly so by the decade.

Knightley's drastic assessment of the various intelligence establishments in the two World Wars will be of primary interest to Revisionists, no doubt. This will be especially true for those who long ago grew weary of the constant gasbags turning out the gee-what-a-great-job-we-did espionage books, either by self-serving memoir-production factories or by people who are hardly anything but promotional flacks seeking to gild the reputation of various administrative paradises, hopeful of sustaining expanding demands for more personnel and more money, usually to produce less of what they are hired to locate.

Knightley is convinced that espionage systems are becoming better than ever, however, in one department: exposing and penetrating one another and reducing relative effectiveness to the point where they might as well stay home and use the national library facilities in a thorough manner, which might result in the accumulation of far more information of a useful sort about their adversaries than they ever accumulate through cloak-and-dagger adventures wandering about in one another's country, let alone what can be learned right at home through electronic interception and surveillance systems and the ever-increasing efficiency of satellite photographic snooping operations.

For those unfamiliar with the author, it should be understood that

Mr. Knightley is a British citizen residing in London, and that his book, like David Irving's recent biography of Sir Winston Churchill, is obviously directed first of all to citizens of the United Kingdom and other parts of the world populated by descendants of those who created the British Empire. Thus there is some neglect of various areas in the subject peculiar to American concerns, though there is compensation for this in the closing chapters, where much attention is directed to a percipient overview of the CIA and the intelligence history of the last four decades. Another area examined in considerable detail along with this, but probably never detailed enough for Britons, is the astounding circumstances involving and surrounding the string of prominent British intelligence figures who have defected to the Soviet Union since the end of World War Two (most of chapters 12, 13 and 14).

Knightley might have made his book even more useful and informative if he had added two chapters, the first on the immensely complicated electronic intelligence communications involving half a dozen powers in the year and a half or so prior to the outbreak of general war in the Pacific in 1941 with the Pearl Harbor debacle (it would be very interesting to learn what Britain and Australia really knew about the entire Purple-Magic business, after all the hinting over the years), and the second on a totally neglected sector, the operations of Israel's Mossad, with its worldwide spread of activities in half the countries of the world, it seems, in the last quarter of a century. And he should have spared us running by the Tricycle/Dusko Popov stuff and its fake omniscience concerning Japanese political and martial planning. Popov knew about as much about all that and the American situation in Hawaii as he knew about the traffic in contraband paprika on the Danube, though his German contacts knew less. Why major books on Pearl Harbor of the last dozen years even bother to mention him is a puzzler, though one or two have really dismantled him.

Knightley may also be quarreled with for his boosting Richard Sorge as an espionage giant. For a man who could not even read Japanese he surely was a strange character to head up such an important and sensitive station as Red intelligence in Tokyo in the critical period ending with the precipitation of the Pacific War.

Sorge's fame rests on one key fortunate encounter: the liaison he made with the really significant figure in it all, Hotsumi Ozaki, the remarkable Japanese Communist who infiltrated right into the cabinet of the Japanese government. Without Ozaki, Sorge would have been lucky to report the changing of the seasons in Japan back to Moscow correctly.

The Second Oldest Profession gets off to a modestly paced start since there were no national intelligence organizations in existence even in vestigial shape before 1909, and that of the British, begun

that year, was essentially little more than a shadow of what its innovators hoped would take shape. Intelligence in the First World War was primitive and probably comparable to what might have been recognizable a century before, except for the innovation of radio. Despite it all there were gargantuan reputations made in these times, but many were expert liars of several varieties, some of whom might have been more at home as vaudeville and circus performers, if one can believe their described idiosyncrasies. How most of them could ever have functioned as collectors of secret information useful to their home countries is not understandable. Knightley explodes a few of these pretentious frauds, and also does some puncturing of spy years involving cases which stubbornly remain as part of our cultural heritage regardless of what is done decade after decade to reduce them to proper dimensions.

The fakers of espionage drama and romance have always had a field day with Mata Hari, an alleged Javanese exotic dancer, but in actuality a passably attractive woman of Dutch ancestry named Margareta Gertruda Zelle, who had lived in Java a few years (Java was a Dutch colony in those times.) Forty-one years old at the time she was arrested in Paris by the French for allegedly spying for the Germans in 1917 (Knightley courteously concedes she was "far from beautiful"), she was tried and shot as a spy by the French (who demonstated some arrogance in executing a female civilian of a neutral country). But no one ever established that she ever found out anything for anyone; Knightley concludes after looking at all the important accounts of it all carefully, "there was not a shred of evidence that Mata Hari had ever given the Germans any information at all, a fact that the French finally admitted in 1932" (the French historian Paul Allard in 1933 declared he had read everything ever published about the case and admitted that not only did he not know in the slightest what she was supposed to have done but that he had never met another Frenchman who knew a thing about that business either).

Another celebrated World War I espionage tale which has produced an immense literature concerned the Austrian soldier, Col. Alfred Redl, who allegedly supplied the Imperial Russian forces with much important information, which supposedly contributed heavily to Austrian military setbacks at Russian hands early in the war which began in August, 1914. Knightley's re-study revealed nothing of the kind. He found that the chief of Austrian intelligence had flatly admitted that the lack of success stemmed entirely from "military deficiencies" of the Austrian forces, while the Russian Army High Command considered Col. Redl a liability instead of an asset, and had summarily categorized what information received from him as obsolete even before the war had started.

Of major interest to those concerned primarily with the war of

1939-1945 are chapters 8 and 10, which deal respectively with the famed British electronic surveillance apparatus credited with deciphering the German Ultra code system, and the first American central intelligence system, the ancestor of the CIA organization, the Office of Strategic Services (OSS). Knightley finds the reputations of both grievously inflated, if not terminally bloated into unrecognisability. By the time he gets through with them, various of their claims are discounted drastically.

Part of Knightley's interest in cutting the Ultra booster crowd down to size stems from the rise of a new historical industry within the Establishment, which originated about a dozen years ago after the publication of *The Ultra Secret* by Frederick Winterbotham in 1974 after it had been sat on officially for 30 years. This was followed by half a dozen other books, which, for the first time, exploited the concentrated enterprise based outside London at Bletchley Park. This operation became so attractive as a result of this now permitted publicity that a new kind of Establishment historical revisionism developed, characterized by the likes of Ronald Lewin's *Ultra Goes to War.* The consequence of this and related revisions was that the military commanders, so glorified in past accounts, were downgraded and the special information supplied by the Ultra-crackers at Bletchley Park was not only credited with making success in the field possible, but elevated to the top height of glitter.

These accounts come out gravely reduced as a result of Knightley's pursuit of this new round of glamorizing of intelligence-gathering in another form. He is inexact and not too clear in dealing with the analog of all this in the Pacific theater, but extremely cogent concerning the scene in Europe. Chapter 8 deserves slow and concentrated reading, and can hardly be more than outlined here. One of the persuasive lines of Ultra-pushers is that their work permitted British and American commanders (there is little if any evidence Ultra was shared with Stalin, though the Soviets may have had their own Ultra-crackers, as they were smart enough to break several British ciphers during the war) to have access to the most secret thoughts and plans of the Germans. In view of the number of spectacular disasters suffered from Dunkirk to Dieppe to North Africa to Arnhem to the Bulge the "Allied" leaders were not reading all this wondrous information too carefully, it would seem. But the whole yarn has little foundation anyway.

Knightley discovered that somewhere around 70% of German communications were not sent electronically in the first place. The use of teleprinters, special telephones, various surface cable systems, and other "landlines," immune from electronic interception, let alone the use of motor vehicle and motorcycle couriers, regular telephone, even pigeons and dogs, scrambles the legend of electronic compromising of all German communications. Sometimes two

different modes were used for the same message: the question might go by regular postal telegraph, the answer, intercepted in Britain, by radio. *But*—the interceptors only had the answer, and had not the slightest idea what the question was.

Knightley further makes hash out of the yarn that Churchill permitted the bombing of Coventry to take place in order to conceal from the Germans that the British had cracked Ultra (and deciphered it via the Enigma machine, the analogs respectively of Purple and the Magic machine in the Pacific theater.) And he further demonstrates that the Germans were not fooled by some intelligence strategy about the time and place of the Normandy landings in June, 1944. (What the Germans could not cope with was holding off the legions of Western-supplied Stalin in the East and those of Eisenhower and Montgomery in the West simultaneously.)

"Ultra made a significant contribution to the war effort in a few fields only, and little or none in others," Knightley concludes, "It did not win the war and it is doubtful if it even shortened it." He goes on to drive in the final spike: "The combination of a long-held wartime secret and the ability of articulate people to tell the story behind that secret once they were free to do so, has given Ultra an importance in intelligence history that it does not deserve." And to make matters even more sober, Knightley quoted from another specialist on it all (p. 155), who declared bluntly, "for at least half the war poor British codes and ciphers probably gave away as much as was gained."

[It is very probable that most code books are stolen, then copied and returned, (to prevent suspicion and thereupon rewriting or replacement), discovered in battlefield debris, salvaged from an adversary's crashed aircraft or wrecked ship, or recovered from a sunken submarine. The real geniuses in electronic surveillance counter-intelligence are those who crack the ciphers in which coded messages are sent. Even people who should know better use the words "code" and "cipher" as though they were interchangeable or synonyms. The late Adm. Edwin T. Layton, chief intelligence officer of the US Pacific Fleet for some time, once briefly distinguished between the two by summarizing it this way: encoding changes the text of a plain-language message by substituting "idea for idea," and enciphering after encoding changes the message again by substituting "letter by letter."]

The chapter on the OSS is complicated, and deserves more than one reading because it deals with more than this subject. Included in it is an expert deflation of the entire "fifth column" fantasy which attributed German military success in Norway, Denmark and Holland in 1940 to traitorous behavior by their nationals and collaboration with a multitude of infiltrated German spies and saboteurs. In the course of his analysis Knightley also brings in on the subject such experts as the British and Dutch historians, A.J.P.

Taylor and Louis de Jong, respectively, the former describing the fifth column hysteria as "the product of panic-stricken imaginations," and the latter after much study concluding that it was "almost entirely mythical." (But even shortly after the whole lie was spread across the world 48 years ago, one of the major liars, the American journalist Leland Stowe, admitted in Sweden that he had made up much of what he had broadcast about it all. However, it survives in popular legend to this day and gets repeated regularly by the fairy-tale peddlers.)

The origins of the OSS as told here have been dealt with in five other books on the subject read by this reviewer, but there is in this account an expert analysis of the global strategy underlying its creation and what it was expected to accomplish which stands out. Obviously many military men were repelled and angered by the planting in their midst of a collection of untrained amateurs with no proven skills in intelligence work whatever, and in the middle of a war, to boot; Gen. MacArthur would not permit them to work in his sector of the Pacific theater of operations, for example.

But what was the quality of the recruits for *British* counter-intelligence? Knightley quotes the Establishment historian Hugh Trevor-Roper, himself in this service for a time, on the pre-1939 class: they "were by and large pretty stupid, and some of them very stupid" (p. 87), with the leaders "being of remarkable stupidity" (p. 113). In the case of SOE (Special Operations Executive), the British World War Two apparatus which became entangled in a mixture of intelligence and "covert operations" (sabotage and "destabilization" capers of varying sorts), Knightley described "many" of its agents simply as "politically illiterate." (This was the operation from which Ian Fleming, another wartime British intelligence chief himself, drew the material which later culminated in his James Bond creations.)

From the story of recruiting and training British agents emerges another engaging anecdote. What was to be done with those who failed to make the grade as agents and operatives? They obviously shared a great many secrets with the successful, and had to be kept silent. The chances of their becoming indiscreet, compromised or blackmailed into disastrous revelations had to be effectively blocked. A posh special detention center was created for them in Scotland, Knightley tells us, and a policy of lying was adopted, denying the detainees ever existed and concealing all traces of their whereabouts from everyone, including close relatives. In harmony with the institutional policy of "once in, never out," they enjoyed the qustionable limbo in which they were cast "for the duration." But despite the close supervision of their overall confinement, the author reports that they passed the rest of the war "in considerable comfort." Scraps of information as to this exotic event began to get around in

the 1970s and the whole thing eventually became, among other things, the inspiration for one of television's most successful and intelligent series, *The Prisoner*, starring the actor Patrick MacGoohan (even this writer, who generally charges a stiff fee for watching 99% of TV, confesses to haveing seen with great interest every episode of this show).

In the course of Knightley's recruitment discussion he relates a number of double-agent stories, but one in particular stands out. In the chapter "Cross and Double-Cross," Knightley mentions a British intelligence attempt to recruit a waiter on the Taurus express train running between Istanbul and Baghdad who turned out to be a major in the Turkish army, already in the employ of *four* other countries besides his own.

Getting on to the matter of wartime "cooperation" of the Anglo-American intelligence systems, it is in view of Churchill's conception of the European war and how "victory" might eventuate that we begin to understand how this American organization (OSS) was expected to work closely with prior-organized British agencies, and hopefully perform a vital function. An innovation in the structuring of the OSS, however, is critical, and of considerable impact as it evolved after the war into the CIA. As has been noted in another context (recruiting), the British always separated intelligence-gathering from "covert operations," a euphemism covering assassinations, sabotage and other forms of expected destructive "destabilization" of the enemy's countryside. The British intelligence and counter-intelligence operations MI5 and MI6 (SIS) did not engage in the latter excursions; for that purpose they had separate functionaries, SOE (Special Operations Executive.) The OSS was supposed to work with SOE, but as Knightley demonstates, they often worked at cross purposes in several areas and frequently against one another. Assigned both intelligence-gathering and sabotage objectives, the OSS mainly failed to achieve much of anything in either, in his view. (In-house official histories and accounts by their functionaries present a somewhat different picture of the OSS, of course, but they are tedious reading. In one of a set of two big sleep-producing volumes bearing introductions by their chief historian, Kermit Roosevelt, there is the revelation that they infiltrated an OSS agent into the prisoner population of the German concentration camp at Mauthausen, an interesting diversionary caper which apparently resulted in no exploitation of the achievement whatever.)

How the arts of sabotage via covert operations in cooperation with internal "resistance" elements on the Continent were supposed to be so effective in the war, as per Churchill's idea of "setting Europe ablaze," is succinctly stated by Knightley (p. 216):

> . . . this was based upon the perception that Britain could not survive

> another war of attrition on the battle plains of Europe. Instead, Germany would be softened up by an economic blockade, strategic bombing, propaganda and subversive warfare. Then, at the right moment, resistance forces in the Occupied Countries, supplied and trained by Britain, would rise and attack the Germans as a prelude to an invasion, probably from the south, the soft underbelly of Europe.

Knightley described this Churchillian vision, to which the OSS became inescapably bound, as "almost totally illusory." But the whole idea fit in well with the romantic notions of OSS first head and founding father, William J. Donovan, who luxuriated in the imagery of shadow warfare, secret missions, intrigue and the whole spectrum of covert cloak and dagger business. Despite the bulky productions of a platoon of flacks, it would be good to see some evidence of what conflagrations they caused in following Churchill's exhortation "to set Europe ablaze."

It would be hard to be less impressed by the "covert operations" aspect of Anglo-American intelligence than Knightley is; he thought the SOE-OSS actions largely ineffective and in many ways little better than imbecilic, utterly ignorant of European continental demographic, political and economic realities, and also, as a result of the two organizations' mutual jealousies and spite, mutually destructive (there are few books with a darker estimate of the futility of the "resistance" than this one, in many ways approximating the somber views of the late Captain Basil H. Liddell Hart on it all 40 years ago). Knightley cites another prominent British wartime intelligence officer, not a member of either the OSS or SOE, whose estimate of it from an intelligence point of view was fully as critical (p. 210): "The Americans had no intelligence service to speak of. OSS was an exact parallel of SOE, drawing on the ethnic dregs of America for skill in languages and knowledge of foreign countries. Their security was non-existent, but they were in constant liaison with SIS and SOE. Thus *our* security was bitched one remove."*

Knightley is simultaneously spellbound and appalled by the contemporary situation in the world international intelligence

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*Among a considerable number of well-known events of this century which are brought up once more in this book, this time with special relationship to intelligence or counter-espionage considerations, is the famed flight of Rudolf Hess from Germany to Scotland in the spring of 1941, on which we all know there is an incredible literature. Knightley believes it worthy of rumination as to whether Hess was *invited* to come to Britain by a substantial faction interested in ending the war with the Germans, and the quarantine imposed on him by Churchill made imperative by the danger this visit presented to the Churchill regime's policy and relationship with Stalinist Russia. Knightley notes that no British counter-intelligence officer whatever, regardless of rank, influence or prestige, was allowed anywhere near Hess, let alone be permitted to talk to him.

business, where he sees a new type of spy has emerged, one who spies on everybody. But more impressive is the immense scope of it all, in which an estimated million and a quarter people in spy organizations spend over $35 billion annually, producing a stock of information only trifling in value when ranged against the investment.

The growth industry in major intelligence departments of the super-powers in the last generation or so has been uncovering the penetration of their various services by agents or "moles" of their opposition. A large literature already exists on these excursions and they have become a standard theme for movies and TV shows. And a subsidiary activity has been the "defection game," as Knightley titles his Chapter 13 on it, in which the British have been especially prominent. The world has been regaled by one bestseller after another on the famed Burgess-Philby-Maclean-Blunt-Blake *dramatis personae*, and others, let alone further speculations of possible "moles" left behind still burrowed into the system somewhere, a nightmare which flashes past the consciousness of superiors in intelligence services everywhere. Those who may have read the two books by Chapman Pincher and that by Peter Wright and their views on the possibility of the late Sir Roger Hollis, former head of MI6, being the "fifth man" filling out the Burgess-Philby-Maclean-Blunt coterie of Comintern-recruited insiders, will note that Knightley has disagreements with both on this still undecided controversy. (Reference is to the reputed tactic of the Comintern to recruit cells of five persons among Communist helpers of Stalinism in other countries.)

He further has some disquieting observations about "double-agents" and the possibility of defectees really being undercover invaders of the espionage system of the land to which they are "defecting," being on assignment seeking to learn from their newly adopted land of allegiance who *their* in-place men are in the falsely deserted former homeland. As Knightley goes on to say at various points, it all becomes an endless game carried on among the intelligence-espionage establishments aimed at one another, sopping up much of their energies and leaving leftover time and shreds of intellect to fulfill the job for which they were put to work on to start with.

The intelligence "community" loves to cooperate in narratives which purport to establish that the outcome of this or that war or campaign was fundamentally determined by the contribution of covert espionage and the divulgation of "secrets" enabling this or that success or insuring this or that failure as the case may be. What you get from Knightley is quite the reverse: that military success or failure derives from preponderance or deficiency in men, guns, machines, tanks, ships, planes, a substantial modicum of luck, and

the proceeds from what might be called the steady evolution of the fortunes of war, and that the contribution of spying regardless of the diverse variations thereof which might be employed, is pretty modest, if at all measurable. As he concludes, "when not deep in their fantasy world, the intelligence community knows that open, published information, and that obtained through traditional diplomatic and other overt contacts, have proved this century by far the most useful source of military, political and economic intelligence for both sides," ending up by quoting Harry Rositzke, a senior officer in the CIA's Soviet block section at one time, as to where he would rank the role played by spying in the above categories, who frankly declared, "It's way down there."

The chances are high that those reading this book with care will find that their conceptions of spying and espionage will never ever be the same again. The famed writer of spy thrillers, John Le Carré, has recommended it to heads of state, but it is a chance for one and all as well, as Le Carré suggests to "discover what imbecilities are committed in the hallowed name of intelligence."

GERMAN BIG BUSINESS AND THE RISE OF HITLER by Henry Ashby Turner, Jr. New York: Oxford University Press 1985. Hardbound, 487 pages, $25.00, ISBN 0-10-503492-9.

Reviewed by John M. Ries

A good portion of the the accepted legacy of German big business and its alleged role in the establishment of the Third Reich rests on the authenticity of the memoirs of certain key individuals who either participated in or witnessed the rise to power of Adolf Hitler from close proximity. Perhaps the two most important were Ruhr industrialist Fritz Thyssen and Hitler's press secretary Otto Dietrich. Thyssen, whose contempt for the Weimar Republic led him to support Hitler's NSDAP as early as the fall of 1923, was long considered to be one of its most important sources of funds. His memoirs, which Turner points out were ghostwritten, have been used by historians to substantiate the close connection between big business and the Nazi movement from its earliest days.

Questions arise, however, concerning the memoirs' authenticity, one particularly interesting example being a passage where Thyssen claims that he "donated 100,000 gold marks to the NSDAP in October 1923." This was a critical period not only in the life of the NSDAP but in that of the Republic as well. Separatist movements were rampant throughout the Rhineland and Bavaria, and the Communists were threatening to take over the governments of Saxony and Thuringia. Moreover, the French occupation of the

Ruhr, the industrial heart of Germany, continued to exert demoralizing effects, perhaps chief of which was the incredible hyper-inflation which threatened to wipe out what was left of the German middle class.

Given the dire situation at that time, one can well appreciate the uplifting effect a sum of 100,000 *gold* marks would have had on the morale of the NSDAP, then just one of many right-wing extremist groups plotting the overthrows of the tottering Weimar Republic. Yet Turner states flatly that "in light of the available evidence, it seems unlikely that Thyssen gave any such sum to the Nazis." In the same paragraph of his memoirs, Thyssen claims that he did not make the payment to Hitler himself but to General Erich Ludendorff, perhaps the most important figure in anti-Republican circles at that time, "to use it as best he could." Whether Ludendorff would have favored the NSDAP more than any of the other groups operating in Bavaria at that time remains doubtful.

Otto Dietrich's 1934 memoirs of the *Kampfzeit* are likewise considered by Turner to be more propagandistic than substantial. Their self-serving nature is revealed by the contradictions between them and a later version published in 1955. Over that span of time it appears that Dietrich tempered his revolutionary ardor with a more realistic assessment of the events. This is evident when one compares the two accounts he provides of the reactions to Hitler's speech to the Düsseldorf Industry Club on January 26, 1932. In the 1934 version, Dietrich gives the following description of the impression Hitler made with the "elite of *die Wirtschaft*" who came to hear him speak on the remedies he would propose to heal the ailing German economy:

> The effect on the businessmen [of the speech], so far as they deserved the name, was profound and became evident in the ensuing difficult months of struggle.

According to Turner, this remark has been accepted by historians as proof that big business increased its subsidies to the NSDAP as a result of the speech. However, in the 1955 version, Dietrich presents a quite different picture, saying that beyond some:

> well-meaning but insignificant sums [collected at the door] . . . one would not speak of any support worthy of mention, much less of financing Hitler's political struggle by *die Wirtschaft* or heavy industry.

An "equally embellished" account in Thyssen's memoirs has served, along with Dietrich's earlier version, as a "seminal source on the Industry Club speech and its aftermath."

What to make of this contradiction? Which version is closer to the truth?

Turner compares both to outside references and decides in favor of the 1955 version. "From all indications," he says, "neither Hitler

nor any other Nazis mounted any sustained follow-up from those who had been present at his Industry Club speech or otherwise to enlist them for their purposes."

He goes on to add:

> that Hitler's failure to follow up vigorously on the entree he had gained to the business community through his Industry Club speech tends to substantiate the hypothesis that he sought merely to neutralize big business, not to bring its leaders actively behind the NSDAP or to exploit its financial resources for his party.

From the preceding examples one can readily agree with the assessment Turner made of the task he faced in the preparation of this study when he said that it became "of necessity, a book that deals not only with the past but with myths about the past." These "myths" were found to be present not only in contemporary memoirs, but in press releases, the post-war testimony of witnesses at Nuremberg, and even from Hitler himself. They all contributed to the creation of a legend involving an important yet misunderstood aspect of the origins of the Third Reich; namely, from which sources the NSDAP received its funding.

The picture of the relationship between German big business and the Nazi party which Turner provides us is one that reveals how little big business had to do with the party's success. In Republican Germany, the big business community was a loosely organized, politically ineffective interest group that was held together primarily by its opposition to the growing menace of *Sozialpolitik*, that is, the modern welfare state. Its political dealings were mainly with the so-called bourgeois parties of the center and right: the DVP (Deutsche Volkspartei), the DDP (Deutsche Demokratische Partei), and the DNVP (Deutsche Nationale Volkspartei). However, the general disdain big business had for the republican form of government, a government that jeopardized the privileged position it once held under the defunct Imperial order, precluded any serious attempt to use the system to its advantage, a system where "votes, not money" were the determining factor in political success.

In this milieu the NSDAP was only one of many political parties big business considered funding. However, because of the party's anti-capitalist economic policies, evident since the proclamation of the twenty-five point program of February 1920, the big business community was never able to reconcile itself to lending more than half-hearted support, and this was invariably of a tactical, rather than an ideological, nature. This distrust of a party that seemed more often than not ready to side with the radical left on important social and economic issues became so pervasive that not even the party's strident anti-Marxism and its desire to inculcate support for national values could overcome it.

It may be true that contributions of various sorts came from big businessmen like Fritz Thyssen, the Berlin manufacturer Ernst von Borsig, and the retired coal executive Emil Kirdorf, but despite statements to the contrary, they were never a critical source of funding. Most of the NSDAP funds were derived from membership dues, interest-free loans, and the gate receipts from the many mass rallies the party held. After the parliamentary breakthrough in September 1930, sales from *Mein Kampf* skyrocketed, providing Hitler himself with a steady source of income. And during the depression the volunteer labor given by party activists helped ease the effects of the increasingly austere economic conditions.

In sum, the NSDAP was a prototypical "grass-roots" political organization able to expand and prosper during a period when most of the bourgeois parties suffered a serious loss of support. Only the Communist Party could compare in this regard, and it never attracted the mass following the NSDAP did.

Turner's book provides us with a new perspective on the origins of the rise of Hitler, one based on a critical look at the role played by German big business based on the examination of *all* the relevant documents rather than the rather eclectic surveys currently before the public today. This will contribute, hopefully, to the encouragement of closer reading of historical accounts dealing with essential aspects of contemporary history, as well as the development of a more discriminating attitude towards the sensationalized distortions of the truth which confront us on a daily basis.

THE THIRD REICH AND THE PALESTINE QUESTION by Francis R. Nicosia. Austin: The University of Texas Press, 1985, Hardbound xiv+319 pages, $35.00, ISBN 0-292-72731-3.

Reviewed by John M. Ries

Although Zionists today are loath to admit it publicly, the fact remains that the Zionist movement, during the period leading up to the Second World War, worked closely with the National Socialist government in Germany to solve the so-called Jewish question. Needless to say, professional historians have largely neglected this surprising cooperation. Two works by Jewish journalists, Lenni Brenner's *Zionism in the Age of the Dictators* and Edwin Black's *The Transit Agreement*, have dealt with the aspects of it, but their books must now be regarded as superseded by Francis R. Nicosia's *The Third Reich and the Palestine Question*, the first (and

probably definitive) study of National Socialist Germany's Palestine policy in the 1930's.

On August 25, 1933, the Ministry of Economics issued a circular to all German currency control offices informing them of the recently concluded agreement with the Jewish Agency for Palestine. Known as the Ha'avara, or Transfer Agreement, it tied the emigration of Jews to Palestine to the sale of the German goods. By permitting each Jew who indicated a willingness to emigrate to Palestine the opportunity to take along a fixed portion of assets in the form of German goods, Germany's tight currency restrictions were circumvented, while the depressed export economy of the Reich received a much needed stimulus. Above all, the arrangement greatly promoted the removal of Jews from Germany, a principal domestic goal of the Hitler regime.

Nicosia also feels that there is reason to believe that the Jewish anti-German boycott, begun shortly after Hitler came to power in January 1933, may have been neutralized as a result of Ha'avara. In any event, even though Germany became the number-one exporter of goods to Palestine by 1937 due to the Ha'avara Agreement, its significance did not reside in its economic benefits, but in the fact that it created a consensus in the German government for Palestine as the principal destination for German Jews. This lasted until the effects of the Arab revolt beginning in 1936 and the Peel Partition Plan the following year forced a reconsideration. Thereafter, the consensus was altered, but the policy of promoting Jewish emigration remained the same.

The German Zionist Organization was employed by the government to "re-educate" the largely liberal assimilationist German Jewish community on the desirability of the Palestine option. The SS oversaw the establishment of occupational retraining centers run by the Hechalutz, the principal Zionist youth organization, to teach young Jews the necessary skills in demand in Palestine. Located throughout Germany, the centers also provided training for Jews who planned to emigrate to other countries. The British Embassy in Berlin issued its stamp of approval in a memorandum of April 3, 1936, pointing out that they "enabled the Jewish Agency to select suitable candidates for admission to Palestine, better prepared for absorption into the economy of the country."

The German government accorded preferential treatment to Zionist organizations at the expense of liberal/assimilationist ones. For example, in February 1935, Heydrich ordered the prohibition of speeches and activities that counseled Jews to remain in Germany. The SD (Sicherheitsdienst) attended Jewish meetings, censoring speakers who advocated the continuation of a Jewish presence in Germany while encouraging propaganda activities on the part of Zionists. By May 1935, "a general ban on all meetings and speeches

of Jewish organizations in Germany was issued by the Gestapo . . . although local Jewish cultural and sports activities, as well as the activities of Zionist organizations, were exempt." Nicosia's statement that "this was in keeping with the Nürnberg laws of September 1935, according to which all German Jews were formally placed beyond the pale of German citizenship" is in error, since the Nürnberg laws had not yet been enacted. Nevertheless, it is important to note that when they were passed on September 15, 1935, they were welcomed by Zionist groups which considered them important in breaking down the resistance of the majority of German Jews, who still regarded the Hitler regime as a temporary phenomenon. The net effect of this German-Zionist connection was to make Zionism the principal movement among Jewish youth in Germany in the 1930s, relegating support for liberal assimilationism to the older generation.

An important aspect of German Palestine policy was the relationship of Germany to Palestine's Arab population. From 1933 on, the Arabs of the Middle East sought German help against the influx of Jews into Palestine, feeling that the anti-Jewish policies of the Hitler regime could be employed in behalf of the Arab cause for independence from the British Mandate. However, this was not to be the case. German policy in the 1930's was based on the acceptance of two things: Zionism and British imperialism. Any official encouragement of Arab nationalism would have upset the status quo in the region, a state of affairs totally unacceptable to Germany. As a result, aside from a few insignificant shipments of arms to Arab insurgents in the late 1930s, along with a brief dalliance on the part of German Intelligence at the same time (probably without the approval of Hitler), nothing substantial was done to change this policy of willful neglect.

As mentioned earlier, the outbreak of an Arab revolt in 1936 forced a reconsideration of Germany's Palestine policy and prompted the first genuine debate over the primacy of Palestine as the destination for German Jews. The Peel Partition Plan, an unsuccessful attempt to divide the country into Jewish and Arab sectors, conjured up the specter of a Jewish state, a state which was opposed by all German government and party figures. Nicosia points out that it was not simply for ideological reasons that National Socialism opposed the Jewish state (a section of the book is devoted to just such a discussion). Rather it was the fact that "the anti-Semitic policies of the Hitler regime would make a Jewish state a natural enemy of the Reich and a dangerous addition to the growing coalition of nations hostile to the new Germany." However, as the chances for such an occurrence began to diminish, Hitler reaffirmed his support for Palestine as the *Zielland* for German Jews, although efforts were made to explore alternatives, such as Madagascar (Poland had already made repeated overtures to the French for its

use as a site for the large Polish Jewish population). This change was prompted by the realization that Palestine had a limited capacity to absorb the growing number of Jewish immigrants, as the resistance of the Arab population and the resultant tighter restrictions placed on Jewish immigration by British authorities made increasingly clear.

Nicosia claims that by late 1937 Hitler began to "prepare for war" as the chances for British cooperation with his proposed changes in the European territorial arrangement seemed more and more remote. This thesis has been challenged by Revisionists, if for no other reason than the meeting held between Hitler and British foreign secretary Halifax at Berchtegaden in November 1937, at which Halifax agreed in principal to all of Hitler's territorial demands. In any event, a transfer of authority over Jewish policy in Germany took place at this time, with the SS given complete control over all its aspects. The mechanism for voluntary emigration established by the Ha'avara Agreement earlier became obsolete with the confiscation of Jewish capital from 1938 on. Henceforth, the legal niceties of the Reich's previous Jewish emigration policy were overlooked as the SS began to cooperate with the Zionist Mossad le Aliyah Bet (Committee for Illegal Immigration) with the full knowledge of both British and U.S. authorities. This policy of "compulsion" was to continue until the "Final Solution," the nature of which Nicosia is careful to avoid specifying.

Aside from a couple of minor discrepancies which in no way detract from the credibility of this book, e.g. January 27 instead of January 26, 1932, as the date given for Hitler's Düsseldorf Industry Club Speech, the main thesis of *The Third Reich and the Palestine Question* is quite convincing. Perhaps Nicosia's rather strong reliance on Hitler's musings in *Mein Kampf* as a blueprint for his later foreign policy initiatives should be challenged, as they indeed have by various Revisionists, but that is more properly the subject of another study. What is important is the author's recognition that Hitler had no desire to go to war against England or to challenge the integrity of the British Empire. The German acceptance of the status quo in the Middle East is further confirmation of this fact.

HISTORICAL NEWS AND COMMENT

The End of a Myth

ROBERT FAURISSON

Despite the May 11 conviction of Revisionist activist and publisher Ernst Zündel in Toronto for "knowingly and injuriously spreading a false report," the second trial of Ernst Zündel was a Pyrrhic victory for Holocaust Exterminationists. As in Zündel's 1985 trial, Revisionist scholars and researchers presented a mass of new evidence against the Holocaust legend, evidence which, as it accumulated day by day, made a mockery of Judge Ron Thomas's "judicial notice" of the Holocaust.

The most important testimony at the second Zündel trial was undoubtedly that of American engineer Fred Leuchter. In this article, which serves as the foreword to the report in which Leuchter presented his unprecedented findings, Robert Faurisson tells how he contacted Leuchter and explains the significance of his testimony. A condensed version of The Leuchter Report: The End of a Myth *is now available from IHR for $20. —Ed.*

Fred A. Leuchter, 45, is an engineer living in Boston, Massachusetts, who specializes in the design and fabrication of execution hardware used in prisons throughout the United States. One of his major projects was the design of a new gas chamber at the Missouri State Penitentiary at Jefferson City.

In January of 1988, I was in Toronto, Canada, assisting in the defense of Mr. Ernst Zündel, a German-Canadian who was on trial for spreading false news by publishing *Did Six Million Really Die?*, a booklet which challenged the prevailing view that six million Jews were killed by the Nazis during World War II, primarily through the use of gas chambers using hydrocyanic gas (Zyklon B gas).

Ernst Zündel had been previously tried on the same charge in 1985. The trial lasted seven weeks and ended with a conviction and a sentence of fifteen months imprisonment. In January 1987, the Ontario Court of Appeal overturned the judgment because of grave errors in law and ordered that a new trial be held. The retrial began on January 18, 1988 and at the time of this writing is still proceeding.

My initial conversations with Fred Leuchter took place in Boston on the 3rd and 4th of February, 1988. I was impressed with the conciseness of his answers to my questions and by his ability to explain every detail of gassing procedures. He confirmed to me the particularly dangerous nature of an execution by hydrocyanic gas.

Executions using this gas were carried out for the first time in the United States in 1924, but as late as 1988 major difficulties still existed in the construction of execution gas chambers, including the problem of leakage. I noticed that Fred Leuchter did not question the standard notion of the Holocaust.

After my return from Boston to Toronto and after I had reported to Ernst Zündel on my discussions with Fred Leuchter, Mr. Zündel decided to ask the latter to prepare an expert opinion on the alleged gas chambers in Auschwitz, Birkenau and Majdanek.

Mr. Leuchter accepted the assignment after a weekend in Toronto reviewing wartime aerial photographs of the camps, plans of the crematoriums and alleged gas chambers, documents on Zyklon B and slides taken of the sites in the 1970's by the Swedish researcher Ditlieb Felderer.

On February 25, 1988, Mr. Leuchter left for Poland together with his wife Carolyn, his draftsman Howard Miller, cinematographer Jürgen Neumann, and Polish interpreter Tijudar Rudolf. They returned eight days later on March 3rd.

Upon return, Fred Leuchter wrote his report of 192 pages including appendices. His conclusions were clear: the evidence was overwhelming that there were no execution gas chambers at Auschwitz, Birkenau and Majdanek, and that the alleged gas chambers at these sites could not have been, then or now, utilized or seriously considered to function as execution gas chambers.

On the 20th and 21st of April, 1988, he stood on the witness stand in Toronto. At first, he replied to the questions put to him by Mr. Zündel's defense lawyer, Douglas H. Christie, the latter assisted by Keltie Zubko. He then faced cross-examination by the Crown Prosecutor, John Pearson, an official who had been assisted throughout the trial by another Crown Attorney, a law clerk and frequent consultations with Jewish advisors sitting immediately behind him in the courtroom.

The examination and cross-examination took place in the presence of a judge and an eleven-member jury. In the courtroom, the atmosphere was one of extreme tension. I was sitting beside a number of Revisionist experts, including Dr. William Lindsey, chief research chemist for Dupont Corporation before his retirement in 1985. Everyone in the courtroom, regardless of their own personal viewpoints on the topic under examination, was acutely aware, I think, of participating in a historical event. The myth of the gas chambers was ending.

The previous day, the director of the Missouri State Penitentiary, Bill Armontrout, had given testimony explaining the procedure and practical operation of a cyanide gas chamber. For every attentive listener it was revealed that if it was so difficult to execute a single person in this manner, then the alleged execution of hundreds of thousands of persons by the Germans using Zyklon B would equal the problem of trying to square the circle.

Following Fred Leuchter on the witness stand came Dr. James Roth, Ph.D. (Cornell Univ.), Manager of Alpha Analytical Laboratories in Ashland, Massachusetts. Dr. Roth reported on the analysis of samples taken from the walls, floors, ceilings and other structures inside the alleged gas chambers of Auschwitz I and Birkenau. These tests revealed either no detection of traces of cyanide or extremely low levels. The only exception was the control sample number 32 taken from Delousing Facility Number 1 at Birkenau. These results were graphically produced in Appendix I of the report and displayed to the jury on an overhead projector. The difference in detected cyanide between the delousing facility, on one hand, and the alleged gas chambers on the other, was spectacular. The extremely low levels of cyanide found in some crematoria were likely, in my opinion, to have resulted from disinfection of the premises during the war.

I think I was the first to point out that all studies of the alleged German execution gas chambers using Zyklon B should commence with a study of the American execution gas chambers. As early as 1977, with the help of an American friend, Eugene C. Brugger, a lawyer in New York City, I began an inquiry into this area. During this research, I obtained information from six American penitentiaries, those of San Quentin, California; Jefferson City, Missouri; Santa Fe, New Mexico; Raleigh, North Carolina; Baltimore, Maryland; and Florence, Arizona. I was forced to conclude at that time that only an expert in American gas chamber technology could finally determine whether the alleged German execution gas chambers were capable of having been used as described in Holocaust literature.

During the next several years, my articles on German gas chambers always referred to the American gas chambers. These articles included "The Rumor of Auschwitz or the Gas Chamber Problem," published on the 29th of December, 1978 in the French daily newspaper, *Le Monde*, and a long interview published in August, 1979 in the Italian periodical *Storia Illustrata*. I visited the gas chamber in Baltimore, Maryland in September 1979, and obtained eight photographs of the chamber and additional documentation. Then, during a meeting held in New York City under the chairmanship of Fritz Berg, I showed the Gas Chamber Procedure Check Sheet of the Baltimore penitentiary and discussed its implications.

In 1980, in the first issue of the newly-created *Journal of Historical Review*, I published an article entitled "The Mechanics of Gassing," in which I described in some detail the gas chamber procedures used in the United States. In the same year, I published, in *Verité historique ou verité politique?*, the eight photographs of the Baltimore gas chamber. My video entitled "The Gas Chamber Problem," made in 1982, began with an analysis of the American gas chambers.

In 1983, I prepared for the Institute for Historical Review, Los Angeles, a book in English on the Holocaust controversy which was to include, for the first time, a list of the questions put to the penitentiary wardens and their answers. The book, however, was never published: on July 4, 1984, American Independence Day, the archives of the Institute were destroyed by arson. This fire, for all intents and purposes, destroyed the financial viability of the Institute and a number of projects, including that of my book, were abandoned.

The Holocaust has appeared to be a subject of enormous proportion. But this "giant," as Dr. Arthur Butz has pointed out in *The Hoax of the Twentieth Century*, is a giant with feet of clay. To see the feet of clay, one need only go to Auschwitz Concentration Camp in Poland. In the words of Dr. Wilhelm Stäglich, "the extermination thesis stands or falls with the allegation that Auschwitz was a 'death factory'." And for me, the whole mystery of Auschwitz is, in turn, concentrated on the 65 square meters of the alleged gas chamber of Auschwitz I and on the 210 square meters of the alleged gas chamber of Birkenau. These 275 square meters should have been forensically examined immediately after the war by the Allies, but no such examination was ever carried out then or since. The Polish examining magistrate, Jan Sehn, ordered some forensic examinations at Auschwitz, but not of the alleged execution gas chambers themselves.

Research by Revisionists has shown that the places alleged to be execution gas chambers could not have been used for such a purpose. Ditlieb Felderer published photographs indicating the flimsy construction of vents and doors to the gas chambers and the lack of prussian blue stain on the walls. I myself had discovered in 1975, in the archives of the Auschwitz State Museum (archives which are well guarded by the Communist officials), the plans of these alleged gas chambers and was the first to publish them in various books and articles. These plans were also shown at the first convention of the Institute for Historical Review in Los Angeles in 1979, when Mr. Zündel was present. In reality, these alleged gas chambers had been mortuaries or, as indicated on the plans, "Leichenhalle" for Krema I (later transformed into an air-raid shelter) and "Leichenkeller" for Krema II.

Nevertheless, in order to obtain an entirely scientific confirmation

of what simple common sense compelled us to see and what Revisionist research work and documents had revealed, it was necessary to look for an American gas chamber specialist. I desperately tried to find such a specialist, but frankly, I had little hope of finding a man who was not only an expert in gas chamber technology, but also one courageous enough to carry out such an investigation in a Communist country and to publish the results if they confirmed Revisionist conclusions. Fortunately, I was wrong.

Fred Leuchter was this specialist. He went to Poland, conducted the forensic examination, wrote his report and testified in a Canadian court on behalf of Mr. Zündel. In so doing, he has quietly entered history.

Fred Leuchter is a modest but quietly determined man who speaks precisely. He would be an excellent professor and has the real gift of making people understand the intricacies of any difficult problem. When I asked him whether or not he was afraid of any dangerous consequences, he replied, "A fact is a fact." Upon reading *The Leuchter Report*, David Irving, the famous British historian, said on April 22nd, 1988 during his testimony in Toronto that it was a "shattering" document which would become essential for any future historian writing on the Second World War.

Without Ernst Zündel, almost nothing of what has now transpired would have been conceivable. He sacrifices everything in his search for historical accuracy and lives under difficult conditions, facing influential and powerful enemies. The pressure on him is permanent and takes the most unexpected and sometimes the most vicious forms. But he has a strong personality and charisma. He knows how to analyze any given situation, to evaluate the ratios of forces, to turn adversity into advantage. From all parts of the world he attracts and mobilizes highly competent people. He is a profound man, a genius who combines common sense with a keen understanding of people and situations.

He may once again go to prison for his research and beliefs or be threatened with deportation. All this is possible. Anything may happen when there is an intellectual crisis and a realignment of historical concepts of such a dimension. Revisionism is the great intellectual adventure of the end of this century. Whatever happens, Ernst Zündel is already the victor. He is a pacifist-activist who has achieved this victory through the powers of reason and persuasion.

—April 23, 1988
Toronto

Interview with Michel De Boüard on the "Thesis of Nantes"

This interview, which originally appeared in the French newspaper, Ouest-France *(August 1-2, 1986) has been translated from the French journal* Revue d'Histoire Moderne et Contemporaire [*Review of Modern and Contemporary History*], *tome xxxiv, January-March 1987. The original was written by Jacques Lebailly.*

When a member of the [French] Institute, with a brilliant career as a historian, and an incontestable patriotic record (Commander of the Legion of Honor, War Cross, Resistance Medal), dares to say, in the midst of a polemic in which the minister of higher education deemed himself obliged to enter: "Had I been a member of the jury, I would probably have given a grade of 'Very Good' to Mr. Roques' thesis," it may seem a provocation. At the very least it can only be an act of uncommon courage. It is that indeed, and furthermore, it's an appeal to intellectual rigor in the grave debate on deportation.[1]

Michel de Boüard, former dean of the faculty of letters at Caen, is a renowned medievalist, a member of the Committee for the History of the Second World War, who campaigned against fascism before the war. He continues to proclaim his commitments as a Catholic and a man of the Left (today he still speaks with emotion of his long service in the ranks of the Communists, which he left in 1960). A scholar and a man not prone to exaggerate, he fought in the Resistance and was deported to Mauthausen, where he was registered as number 63584, category NN.[2] He is one critic who can't be labeled either an amateur or a nostalgist for Nazism.

Hear him:

Mr. Roques' thesis defines itself in its title: *The Confessions of Kurt Gerstein. A Comparative Study of the Different Versions — Critical Edition.*[3] Gerstein's testimony has been known since 1947. There were several versions available. It is an important text because everyone who has dealt with the concentration camps has adduced this testimony. It was poorly understood and has been used with a carelessness which a historian cannot tolerate. (Embarrassing passages were excised due to things which seemed untrue, different versions were conflated, etc.) The thesis is a good critical edition. It is true that one sensed perhaps a certain . . . partiality, but where is

the thesis without it? A thesis is not a catechism! A thesis is to be discussed, and if I had been a member of the jury I would have discussed it with the author. I don't agree with everything, but a critical study was needed. It's been done and I say: thank you Mr. Roques. In any case, according to my reading, it is not true that this thesis denies the existence of the gas chambers."

Ouest-France: "If one were to accept, like Mr. Roques, that the Gerstein testimony is to be completely rejected, would that change anything regarding your belief in the gas chambers?"

Michel de Boüard: "Certainly not!"

And Mr. de Boüard explains that there is a distinction to be made between the conviction of the former deportee based on what he's seen, heard, (and also believed, because that derives from logic and common sense) and the "proofs" obligatory for a historian, for whom a deportee is not to be believed merely on the strength of his word. The fact that each day thousands of deportees entered a given place and were never seen leaving is the determinative element of conviction, he says, which doesn't prevent pointing out the danger of certain certitudes which he admits he himself was the victim of: "In the monograph on Mauthausen which I wrote for *La Revue d'histoire de la Seconde Guerre mondiale* [Review of the History of the Second World War] in 1954, in two places I spoke of a gas chamber. Reflecting on this later I said to myself: where did I acquire the conviction that there was a gas chamber at Mauthausen? It wasn't during my stay at the camp, for neither I nor anyone else suspected there was one there, it was rather a rumor I heard after the war, that's granted. Then I noticed that in my text—although I supported most of my statements with references—there was no reference concerning the gas chamber . . .

"Now, I was a member of the French command of the international resistance organization at the camp and we were well informed about what happened there.

"Besides, it seems the specialists, notably those from the Institute for [Contemporary] History in Munich, have learned that gassings didn't take place anywhere but in the camps Chelmno, Auschwitz, Sobibor, Treblinka, Belzec, and Majdanek. There weren't any in the camps within Germany (within the borders of 1937)."

Michel de Boüard, without, however, giving in to new certitudes, remains sceptical about gassings at Mauthausen.

"It was also thought," he continues, "that there must have been a set-up for execution by shooting. About this I can say that I once saw a group of twenty or thirty men standing at the door of the building which housed the bunker and the crematorium. They went in one by one, at intervals of several seconds, and later I noticed while looking at the registries for deaths in the camp, on which I have done a good

deal of work, that the deaths were entered at intervals of one minute."

"Whether the killings were carried out in one manner or another changes none of the horror of the camps, but it is not necessary to say anything on that. When the texts of this writer or that are invoked, let's begin by doing what is done in the study of every historical problem: establishing all the written, oral and material sources, everything there is, and then making a critical study, source by source, and there will be no more of these polemics."

Ouest-France: "You've taken into consideration that your stand (which, in view of your past, can in no way be an ideological stance) could supply grist to the mill of certain . . . nostalgics?"

Michel de Boüard: "I don't disregard that. Naturally I can't say that I give it no notice, but frankly what am I to do? I am a historian and the truth alone interests me. Besides all this won't benefit the fascists, etc. None of that is serious."

Ouest-France: "It's been said that the Roques thesis was accomplished in an irregular fashion."

Michel de Boüard: "That's another problem. If there were irregularities in form, it is unacceptable, but then one would have to say that is was necessary to nullify the oral dissertation."

Ouest-France: "You were president of the Association of Deportees of Calvados and you resigned. Why?"

Michel de Boüard: "I found myself torn between my conscience as a historian and the duties that entails, and my attachment to a group of comrades I love deeply but who don't wish to recognize the necessity of treating the historical fact of the deportation in accordance with sound historical method.

"I'm haunted by the thought that in a hundred years, or even fifty, historians will submit the concentration camp system of the Second World War to investigation and by the thought of what they will discover. The file is rotten. On the one hand there is a vast amount of tall tales and inaccuracies, repeated obstinately, particularly on the numerical scale, of amalgamations, generalizations, and, on the other hand, there are very solid critical studies which demonstrate how ridiculous these exaggerations are. I fear that historians will say, finally, that the deportation itself must have been a myth. That's the danger. This thought haunts me."

Notes

1. [In France the terms *déporté, déportation*, etc. connote more than deportation: they embrace the entire concentration camp experience.—Ed.]

2. The abbreviation NN is commonly interpreted to mean *Nacht und Nebel* (Night and Fog). Another interpretation has been advanced as well: *Nomen nescio* (Name unknown).
3. [An English translation of Henri Roques' thesis will soon be available from IHR. –Ed.]

About the Contributors

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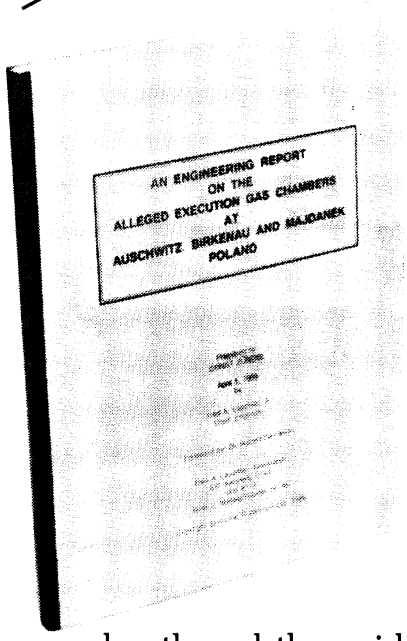

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